RESEARCH REPORT

SASKATCHEWAN CHILD CARE NEEDS AND PREFERENCES SURVEY

Saskatchewan Social Services

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A Report for:

Saskatchewan Social Services

prepared by:
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Executive Summary

This report highlights findings from of a survey of Saskatchewan households with children under the age of thirteen. The survey was conducted by Environics Research Group Ltd. under the direction of the Department of Social Services. A total of 1,273 households were interviewed in March 2001.

The overall objectives of the survey were to investigate among the approximately 100,000 Saskatchewan households with children under the age of thirteen:

- current child care arrangements used;
- child care preferences and needs;
- issues that cause particular difficulties for managing work and child care; and
- opinions about the role of government in meeting those needs.

Who We Talked To

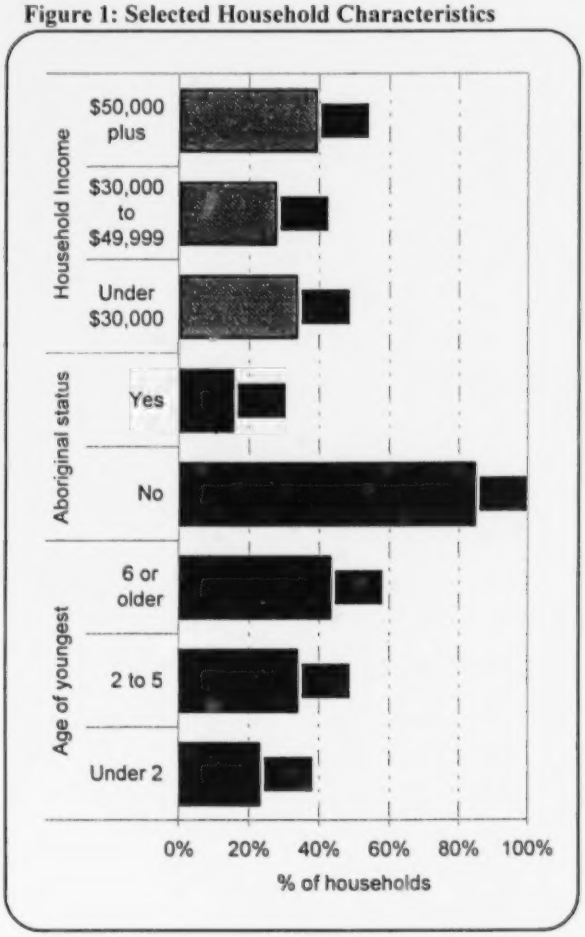
The interview was conducted with the person most responsible for making child care arrangements. Most (81%) of these respondents were women and one half were under 35 years of age.

The sample of households is representative of the population of Saskatchewan households with young children.

- The majority of surveyed households (78%) were two-parent households, typically with at least one child under the age of six.
- The 1,273 survey respondents reported on 2,317 children under the age of thirteen so there was an average of 1.8 young children per household.
- 58% of respondents had a post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate.
- More than one third of households had annual incomes of $50,000 or more; one third had incomes under $30,000.
- 15% of respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal.
- 56% of households were outside the cities of Regina and Saskatoon.

The most common kind of household, accounting for more than three quarters of those surveyed, is a two-parent family (see Figure 2). Both parents are regularly at work or school in the majority of these

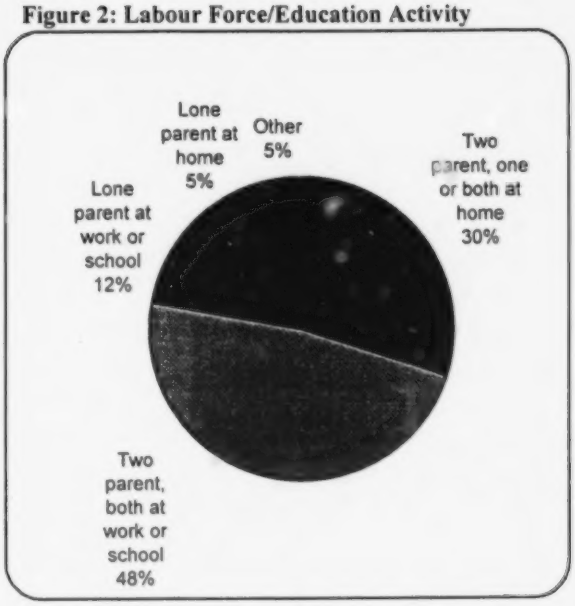
Figure 1: Selected Household Characteristics



kinds of households. In lone-parent households, those who are regularly out of the home for work or school outnumber those regularly at home by a factor of more than two to one.

Taken together then, there is an apparent need for child care among at least 60% of the surveyed households.

Figure 2: Labour Force/Education Activity


Lone parent at home 5%
Other 5%
Two parent, one or both at home 30%
Lone parent at work or school 12%
Two parent, both at work or school 48%

Current Child Care Arrangements

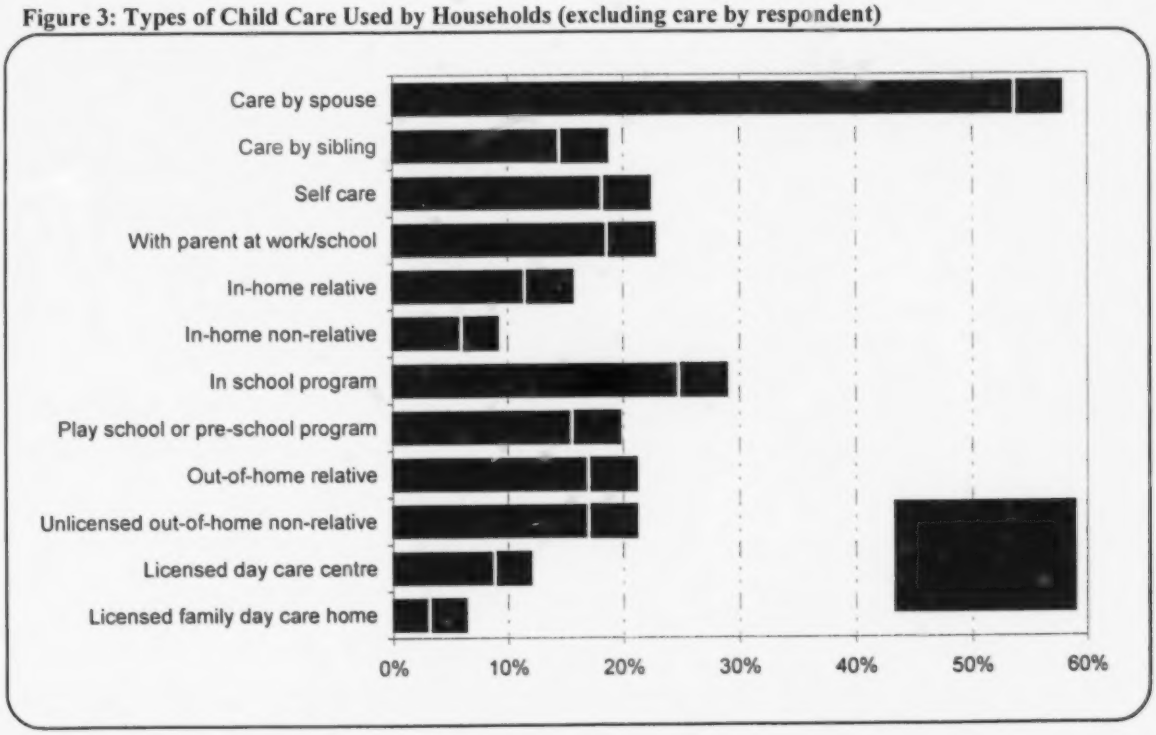
Any description of "typical" child care arrangements is necessarily complex. Each child can have a number of different arrangements and there may be different arrangements for the children in a single household.

Averaged over all households, the most common kind of child care is care by a family member, typically one of the parents in the household (see Figure 3). Other kinds of family care in the home are also common.

In 18% of households children spend at least some time with their parent at work or school.

In 14% of the households, children spend at least some time in the care of an older brother or sister.

Figure 3: Types of Child Care Used by Households (excluding care by respondent)

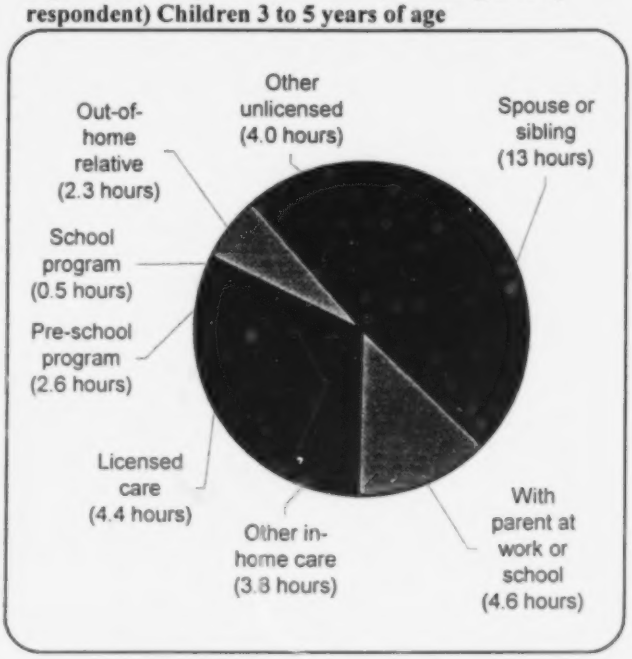


Almost one in five (18%) households reported that their children spent at least some time looking after themselves.

In spite of the prevalence of in-home care by a family member, the majority of households used at least some kind of non-family care (58% of households) or out-of-home care (71% of households). Informal care arrangements outside the home are the most common of these; 17% of households reported using informal care by a non-relative, the same proportion who used out-of-home care by a relative.

Another common kind of out-of-home child care is a school program, either a pre-school or after-school program or a lunch program. One quarter of households used this kind of care for at least one of their children.

Figure 4: Average Hours of Care (excluding care by respondent) Children 3 to 5 years of age


Other unlicensed (4.0 hours)
Spouse or sibling (13 hours)
Out-of-home relative (2.3 hours)
School program (0.5 hours)
Pre-school program (2.6 hours)
Licensed care (4.4 hours)
Other in-home care (3.8 hours)
With parent at work or school (4.6 hours)

Licensed child care, in a day care centre (9% of households) or a licensed family day care home (3%) are not as common as other kinds of out-of-home care.

Looked at another way, the "average" child spent 25 hours per week in the care of someone other than the respondent. That type of care varies by the age of the child. For children under three, the average hours of care were 27 per week:

12 hours in the care of the spouse or an older brother or sister;
4 hours with the parent at work or school;
4 hours in care outside the home by a non-relative;
2 hours in care outside the home by a relative; and
5 hours in other kinds of care.

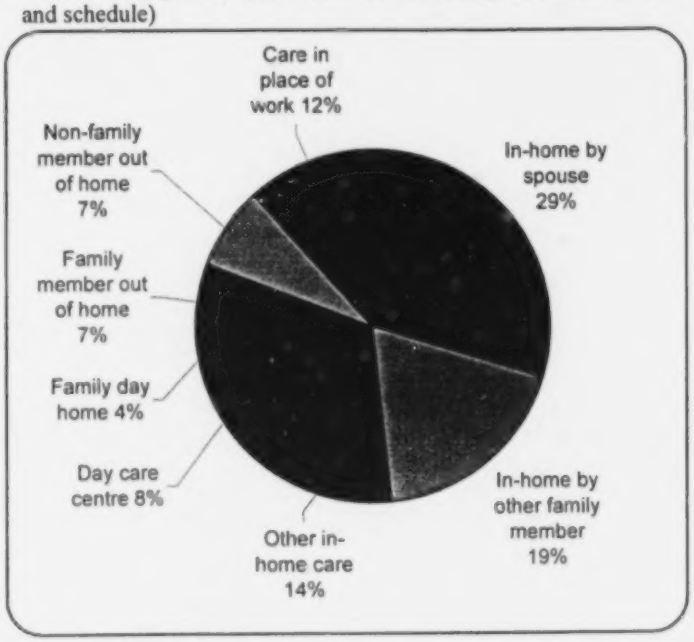
For children in the pre-school age group (3 to 5 years of age) the average child spent 35 hours per week in the care of someone other than the respondent. Figure 4 shows that the average child spent:

13 hours in the care of the spouse or an older brother or sister;
5 hours with the parent at work or school;
4 hours in care at home by someone other than an immediate family member;
4 hours licensed care;
4 hours in informal out-of-home care by a non-relative; and
5 hours in other kinds of care.

Once the child reaches school age (6 to 12 years of age), out-of-home care is less common. On average, school aged children spend an average of 19 hours per week in child care:

- 9 hours in the care of the spouse or an older brother or sister;
- 2½ hours with the parent at work or school;
- 2 hours in a school program;
- 1 hour in care by a relative outside the home; and
- 4 hours in other kinds of care.

Figure 5: Preferred Type of Child Care Arrangement Among those who Regularly go to Work or School (given current income and schedule)


Care in place of work 12%
In-home by spouse 29%
In-home by other family member 19%
Other in-home care 14%
Day care centre 8%
Family day home 4%
Family member out of home 7%
Non-family member out of home 7%

Six in ten households reported that their child care arrangements in the week prior to the survey had no costs associated with them. The costs of child care varied widely but averaged $25 per week per child excluding those who use only family care. Among children using at least some kind of non-family care, the average cost is $41 per child per week.

Preferred Arrangements

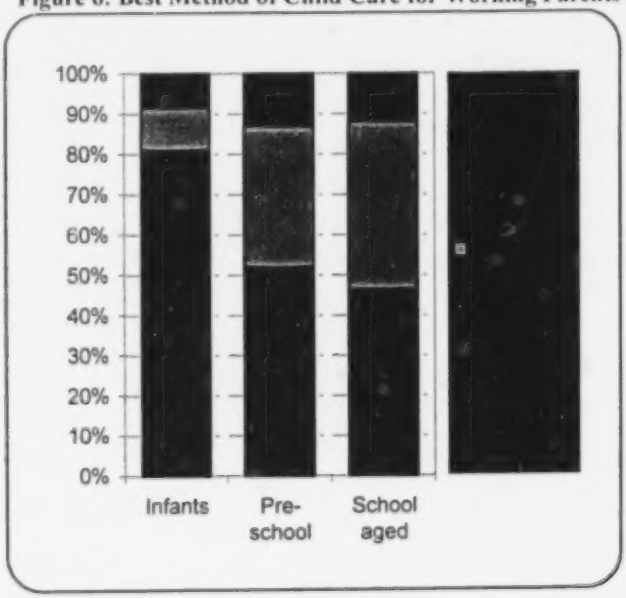
Respondents who worked or attended school were asked, "given their current schedule and income", what kind of care they would prefer for their children. With that constraint, parents would prefer child care arrangements in their home with a parent or other relative (see Figure 5). As children get older, there is more willingness to look at out-of-home care arrangements.

For 61% of children of all ages, the preferred method of care is either

- care at home by a spouse (29%),
- care at home by another family member (19%), or
- care in the home by someone outside the immediate family (14%).

The next most common preference was care at the place of work or school, mentioned by 12% of respondents.

Figure 6: Best Method of Child Care for Working Parents



For the minority who prefer out-of-home care, a variety of preferences were mentioned including:

- care in a neighbourhood or school day care centre (8% of children);
- care by a family member outside the home (7%); and
- care by a non-family member (7%).

For households where the preferred kind of arrangement was not the main one they were using, availability was the most common barrier, mentioned by 60% of respondents. Cost and conflicts with their work or school schedules were mentioned by 22% and 13% respectively.

Delving further into parental preferences, all respondents, including those who regularly stay at home, were asked about the best form of care for children of working parents without being placed in the context of availability and affordability. In this question, the preference for at-home care by a family member is even stronger, especially for younger children (see Figure 6).

Overall, 81% of respondents felt that infants and toddlers are best cared for in the home. This proportion drops to 52% for pre-school aged children and to 47% for school-aged children.

Stresses

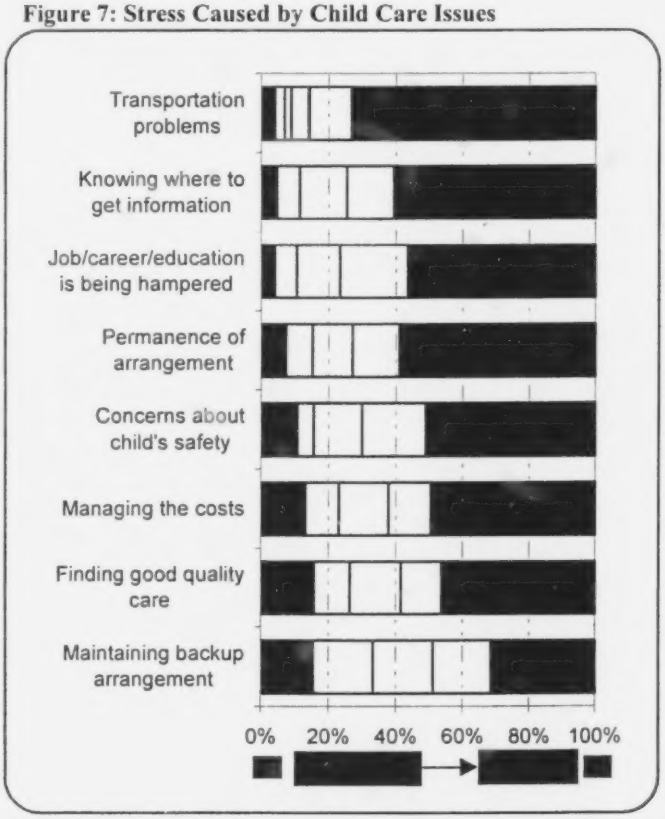
Several questions in the survey addressed the kinds of stresses that parents normally face in finding and maintaining child care arrangements. As one example, 11% of respondents reported that the arrangement in the week before the survey was not "normal" in one way or another. In particular, 7.5% of respondents had to make alternate arrangements because their usual caregiver was not available.

As another example, almost one in three (31%) of households have had a problem finding a suitable child care arrangement. When such a problem arises, the difficulty often has an impact on labour force participation by either:

- limiting hours of work (67% of those who have had a problem);
- limiting the kinds of work they could take (54%); or
- limiting the ability to work at all (55%).

In a more direct series of questions, respondents who work or go to school were asked to rank eight potential stressors on a five-point scale ranging from "a great deal of stress" to "no stress at all" (see Figure 7). More than one third (39%) of respondents rated at least one of the stresses at the

Figure 7: Stress Caused by Child Care Issues



highest stress level on the scale; 47% reported no stress beyond the lowest two levels in any of the eight potential stressors.

The issue that generates the most stress – 68% reported at least some stress – is maintaining a backup arrangement. In order, the next most common kinds of stresses are:

finding a good quality care arrangement (54% report at least some stress);
managing the costs of quality care (50%); and
concerns about the child's safety while at work or school (49%).

Stress levels vary somewhat by the socioeconomic characteristics of the household. In particular, single parents and those with lower levels of household income were more likely to report higher levels of stress.

What Parents Look For in Child Care

When given a list of fifteen possible characteristics of quality child care, more than one half of parents rated thirteen of them as very or somewhat important, highlighting the high standards that parents have for child care (see Figure 8).

Virtually all parents agreed that some characteristics were somewhat or very important, namely:

the caregiver's experience (95% of respondents);
a healthy environment (94%);
good quality food (94%);
educational activities for the children (93%);
the caregiver's style is similar to your own (93%);
the arrangement allows the children to stay together (90%).

Respondents were then asked to name the single most important characteristic of a quality child care arrangement. Figure 9 shows that there is no single factor common among parents looking for a quality child care arrangement. About one half of the parents gave responses suggesting that child development was uppermost in their mind:

the style of care is similar to your own (15% chose this as the single most important);
the caregiver's experience (14%); and
the kinds of educational activities provided (6%).

Approximately one quarter (24%) chose a healthy, safe environment as the single most important characteristic suggesting that safety was uppermost in their mind. The remaining quarter of respondents tended to choose characteristics that make an arrangement more stable or convenient including:

the arrangement allows the children to stay together (9%); and
the arrangement still works when the child or care provider is ill (6%).

Although parents clearly value the characteristics provided by the licensed child care sector, relatively few rate this as an important characteristic of a child care arrangement and only 2% chose this as the single most important one.

Figure 8: Characteristics of Quality Child Care

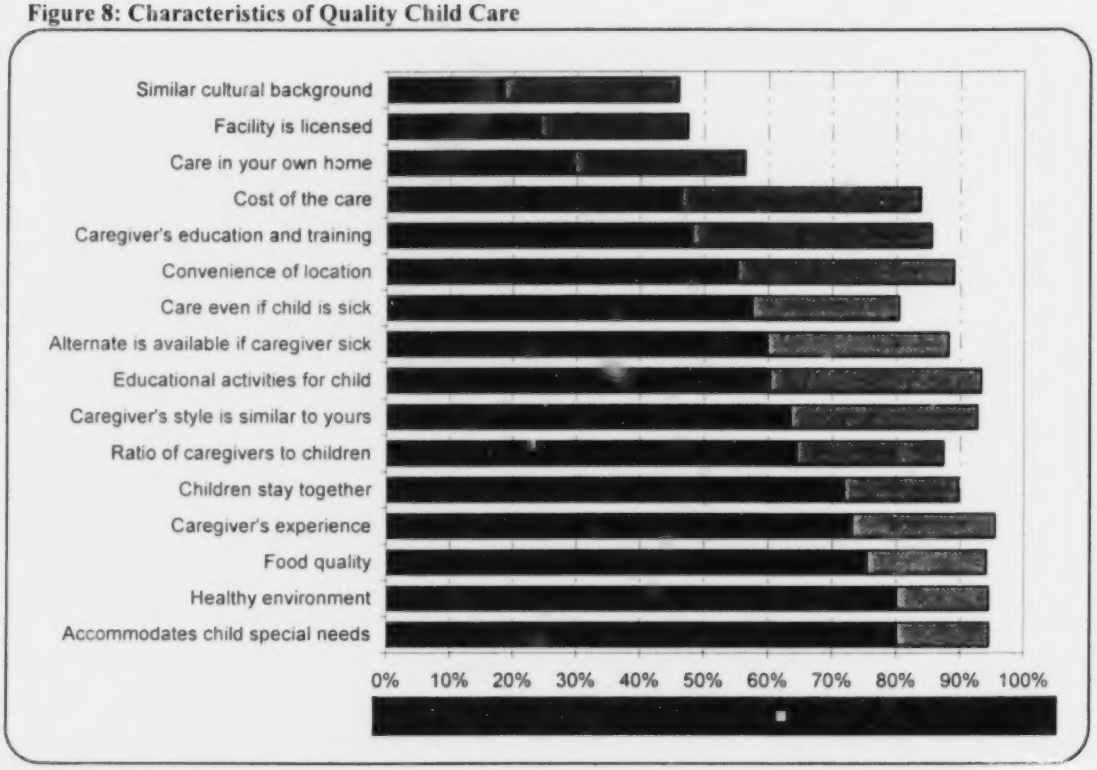
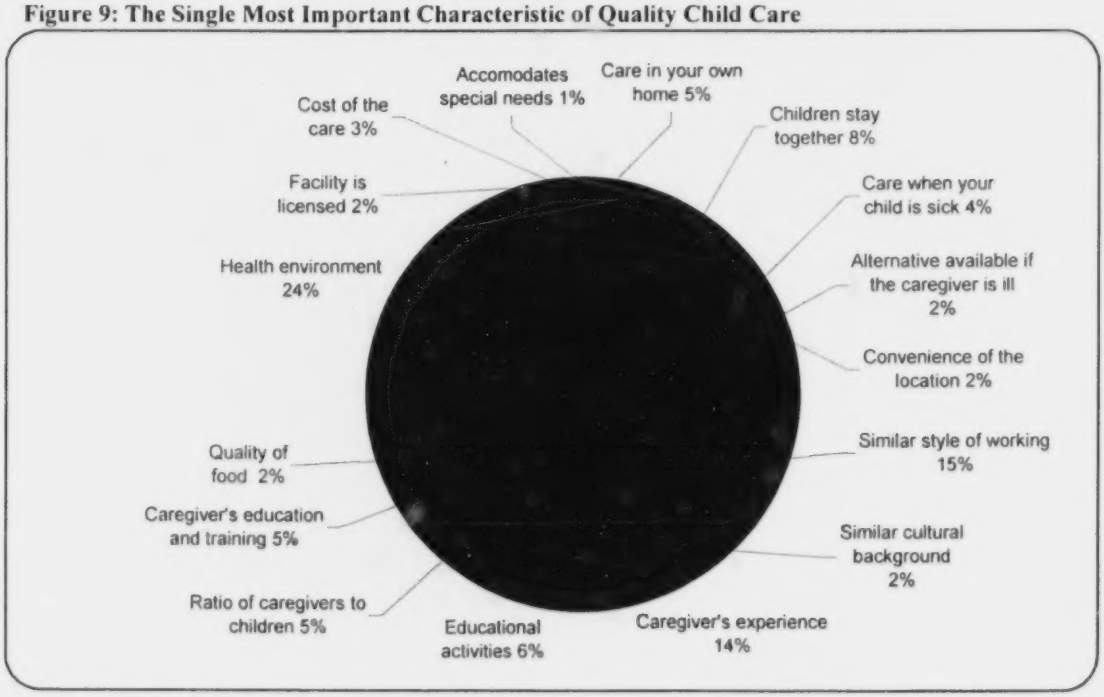


Figure 9: The Single Most Important Characteristic of Quality Child Care


Accomodates special needs 1%
Care in your own home 5%
Cost of the care 3%
Children stay together 8%
Facility is licensed 2%
Care when your child is sick 4%
Health environment 24%
Alternative available if the caregiver is ill 2%
Convenience of the location 2%
Similar style of working 15%
Quality of food 2%
Caregiver's education and training 5%
Similar cultural background 2%
Ratio of caregivers to children 5%
Educational activities 6%
Caregiver's experience 14%

What Parents Think About Child Care Issues

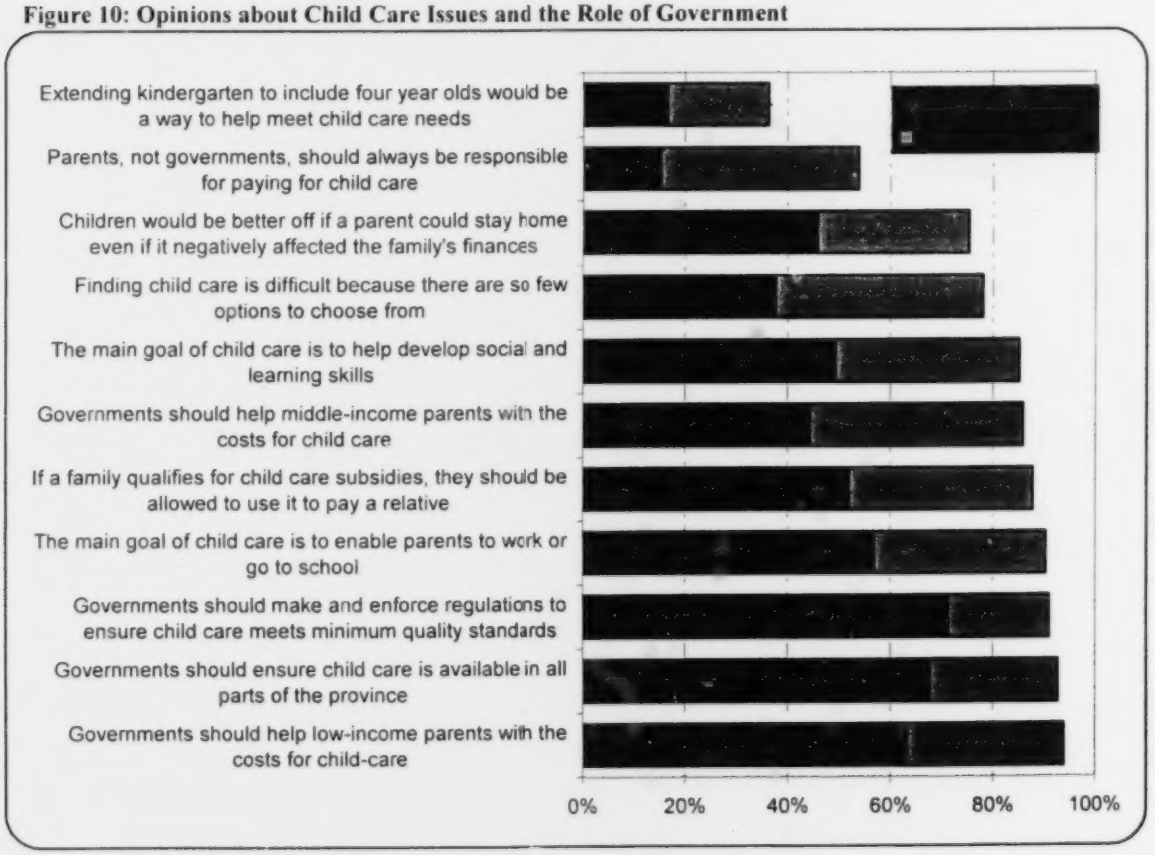
Survey respondents were asked a series of questions dealing with the main goals of child care, the role of governments, and the availability of child care options. Overall, the three statements that received the strongest agreement levels indicate that parents see an important role for government in child care.

Seven out of ten respondents (70%) strongly agree that governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care services meet minimum quality standards (see Figure 10). As well, two-thirds strongly agree that governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province (67%) and that governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child care (63%).

On the issue of government subsidies, there is agreement that governments should help low-income parents (94% agree, 63% strongly) and middle-income parents (86% agree, 44% strongly). Only 15% of respondents strongly agreed that parents should always be responsible for child care costs. Respondents also believe that subsidies should be permitted for caregivers that are relatives – 88% agree, 52% strongly.

Parents see the two goals for child care as equally important; 90% agree that the main goal is to enable parents to work or go to school while 85% agree that the main goal is to help children develop social and learning skills. The strong preference for parental care in the home is evident in the fact that three quarters of respondent agreed with the statement that "children would be better off if one of their parents

Figure 10: Opinions about Child Care Issues and the Role of Government


Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs
Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care
Children would be better off if a parent could stay home even if it negatively affected the family's finances
Finding child care is difficult because there are so few options to choose from
The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills
Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care
If a family qualifies for child care subsidies, they should be allowed to use it to pay a relative
The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care meets minimum quality standards
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province
Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%

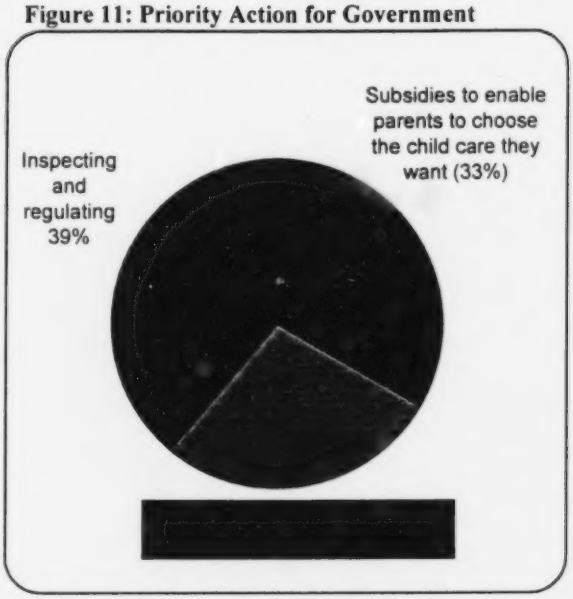
could stay home to look after them even if it negatively affected the family's financial situation.". Parents generally do not feel that extending kindergarten to four-year olds is a good way to meet child care needs.

Near the end of the interview, respondents were asked what they thought government's first priority should be:

> providing subsidies to parents so that they can choose the child care they want;
> making sure that more quality child care is available in all parts of the province; or
> inspecting and regulating child care facilities to make sure they are safe and properly staffed.

As Figure 11 shows, parents were almost equally divided among the three options.

Figure 11: Priority Action for Government



Key Findings

The key findings from the survey can be summarized as follows.

> The dominant child care arrangement is care by a parent in the child's home.
> One in ten households uses a licensed child care arrangement.
> Most parents feel that care at home by a family member is the best kind of child care, particularly for younger children.
> Although there are exceptions, parents do not seem overly stressed about their child care arrangements. When difficulties do arise, they have an impact on labour market activities.
> Stability and predictability are more common concerns than cost or location.
> No single factor dominates the list of characteristics that parents feel are important in a finding a quality child care arrangement outside the home.
> There is a general similarity in parental views about child care. Differences that arise across household characteristics such as income, lone parent, rural/urban location, or Aboriginal status tend to be small.

1.0 Introduction and Survey Methodology

Late in 2000, a working group of officials in the Department of Social Services was formed to examine child care policy in the province. As part of their research, the working group conducted a general survey of parents in the province. This report summarizes the findings from that survey.

The overall objectives of the survey were to investigate child care arrangements, needs, preferences and other questions concerning the care of children in Saskatchewan so that the department would be better positioned to develop and plan for services within the province. The survey of parents with children under the age of thirteen who normally live in their household provided information about:

the current arrangements that families make for the provision of child care;
the stresses associated with current arrangements for care;
preferences for different types of care arrangements; and
current child care policy issues.

The survey instrument was designed by the working group with the help of Doug Elliott from QED Information Systems Inc. The fieldwork for the survey was done by Environics Research Group under the direction of Emily Christie.

The survey sample was drawn using a random digit dialling algorithm with a target of 1,250 completions. The interviews were conducted by telephone between March 15th and 31st, 2001. A survey this size has a margin of error of ±2.8%, 19 times out of 20 times. At the completion of the interviews, there were 1,273 completed interviews (see Table 1.1).

All fieldwork conducted by Environics was conducted in accordance with the professional standards established by the Professional Marketing Research Society (PMRS) and the Canadian Association of Market Research Organizations (CAMRO). All subsequent research on the survey was done by Doug Elliott of QED Information Systems Inc. who also prepared this report.

Table 1.1 Sample Disposition

	Counts	Percent
Number of valid phone numbers (after not eligible, not in service, etc.)	8,559	100%
Busy, not available, no answer	3,201	37%
Refusals, terminations in mid interview	4,085	48%
Completions	1,273	15%

Organization of the Report

Section 2 describes the basic demographic, economic, and labour market characteristics of the survey respondents. This section also compares the surveyed population with the general population as a check on the validity of the sample.

Section 3 provides a description of the current child care arrangements used by Saskatchewan families and Section 4 examines their preferences for child care.

Respondent views on stresses associated with finding and maintaining a child care arrangement are examined in Section 5 and their views on the characteristics of a good child care arrangement are described in Section 6.

Responses to the attitude and opinion questions are presented in Section 7.

Although this report is primarily a summary of the survey results, Appendix A, provides some background information about the number of families and children in Saskatchewan, the labour market characteristics of young women, and an indication of the future demand for child care in the province. These data are derived from Statistics Canada and sources other than the actual survey.

A copy of the survey instrument is included as Appendix B.

Appendices C through F provide detailed breakdowns for specific questions in the survey according to the demographic and labour market characteristics of the household or the respondent.

Technical Notes

The data from the file is weighted to adjust for under and over-representation in the survey sample. Accordingly, the absolute counts of respondents have decimal points implicit in them. The total counts as well as the total percentages may, therefore, not add to the totals because of rounding errors. The percentages and graphs are constructed from unrounded data.

In this report, subgroups within the overall surveyed population (men and women, for example) are often examined to determine if their responses to the questions differed. In determining whether or not the differences were statistically significant, the Pearson ^{2} statistic at the 95% confidence level was used. Note that statistical significance may not necessarily mean that the responses are different in a practical sense.

Sample Validity

Where possible, respondent characteristics are compared with information from other reliable data sources as a check on the representativeness of the survey sample. Most of the checks are against the Statistics

Canada Labour Force Survey (LFS), a monthly telephone survey of Saskatchewan residents[1]. The survey frame for the LFS excludes residents of Indian Reserves so the comparison is not a perfect one.

1 The comparisons were made using microdata from the 2000 Labour Force Survey. All computations on these microdata were prepared by QED Information Systems Inc. and the responsibility for the use and interpretation of these data is entirely with the author.

2.0 Who We Talked To: Respondent Characteristics

This section examines the basic demographic characteristics of the survey respondents and the households in which they live. This provides a basic description of the characteristics of households with young children as well as setting the stage for the analysis in the balance of the report.

2.1 Respondent Demographics

Once it was verified that the household had a child under the age of thirteen, the interviewer was instructed to screen out households that operated a child care business in their home. For those that did, the respondent was first asked if the decision to set up a child care business was a "way to support your family while looking after your own children"?

Table 2.1 Child Care Businesses in the Home

		Number	Percent of total
With child care business	set up as a way of supporting family while caring for children	45	3.4%
	not set up as a way of supporting family	19	1.4%
Households eligible for survey		**1,273**	**95.2%**
Households with children under 13 years of age		**1,337**	**100.0%**

Table 2.1 shows that 5% of households with children under thirteen are involved in a child care business. In the majority of cases, the business was set up to provide some income while looking after the respondent's own children. If the proportions are representative of the general population, then there may be as many as 5,000 home-based child care businesses in the province.

If a child care business was not present, the interviewer then asked to speak to the person "most responsible for making child care arrangements". The balance of the interview was conducted with that individual.

Age and Gender

The person in the household most responsible for making child care arrangements is typically a woman (see Table 2.2). The average age was 35; with 10% of respondents under the age of 25 and 8% 45 years of age or older.

Table 2.2 Respondent Age and Gender (person most responsible for child care arrangements)

		Number	Percent of total
Gender	Male	237	18.6%
	Female	1,036	81.4%
	All respondents	1,273	100.0%
Age group	19 to 24	117	9.9%
	25 to 29	211	16.6%
	30 to 34	301	23.6%
	35 to 39	315	24.7%
	40 to 44	215	16.9%
	45 or older	104	8.2%
	All respondents	1,273	100.0%

As a check on the validity of the survey sample, this distribution was compared with information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The comparison group chosen from the LFS was women in households with at least one child under the age of thirteen (see Figure 2.3)

Figure 2.1 **Respondent Gender (person most responsible for making child care arrangements)**

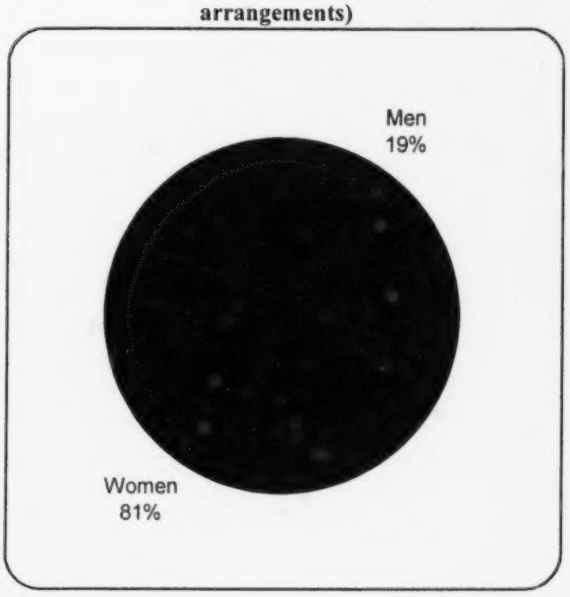


Figure 2.2 **Respondent Age Group (person most responsible for making child care arrangements)**

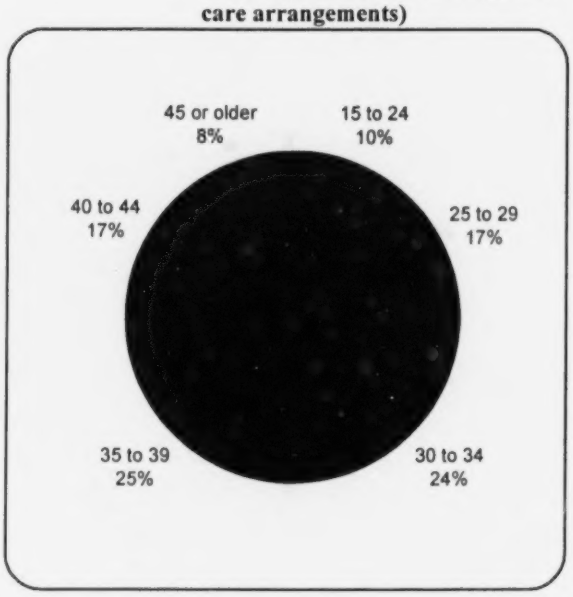


Figure 2.3 **Comparison of Age Distributions for Women Respondents to the LFS and the Child Care Survey**

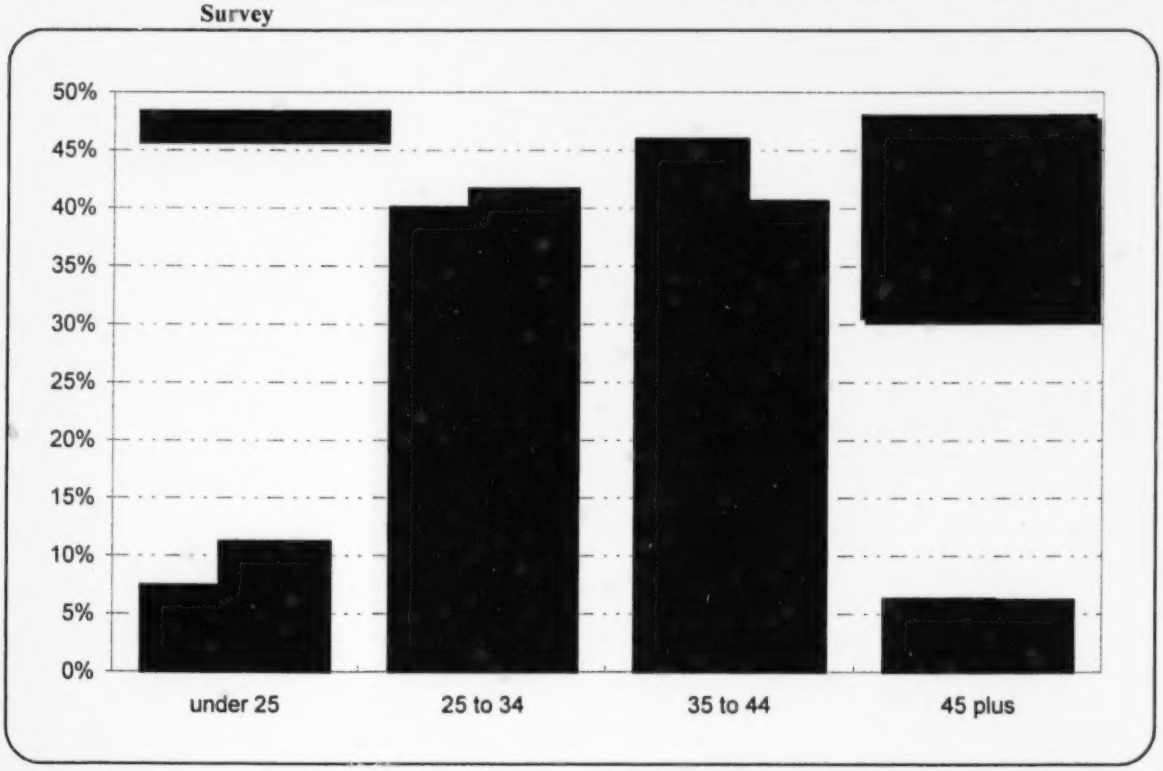


Figure 2.3 shows a similar age distribution from the Child Care Survey and LFS. The survey respondents were somewhat more likely to be under 25 and somewhat less likely to be in the 35 to 44 age group. The differences are not substantial, however, and may be explained by the fact that women in younger age groups are probably more likely than their male partners to be the "person responsible for making child care arrangements". In families with older children, the male partner may be more likely to take that responsibility

Education

Respondents were asked to report the highest grade of high school that they had completed and if they had completed any post-secondary education.

More than nine out of ten respondents (91%) had at least a grade 12 education and the majority had completed a post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate (see Table 2.3).

The completed education levels are relatively high compared with those in the general Saskatchewan population. For example, Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey reports that 11% of Saskatchewan adults have a university degree compared with 20% of respondents. The relatively high levels of completed education among respondents is at least partly because, as a group, they are relatively young.

As a check on the validity of the survey sample, the completed education levels for women respondents were compared with the Labour Force Survey. The comparison group chosen from the LFS was women in households with at least one child under the age of thirteen (see Figure 2.5).

Survey respondents were somewhat more likely than LFS respondents to have a completed post-secondary education. The differences, however, are quite small and can be explained by the fact that respondents to the child care survey are slightly younger than those in the LFS.

Table 2.3 Respondent Completed Education (person most responsible for child care arrangements)

	Number	Percent of total
Less than Grade 12	110	8.7%
Grade 12 only	298	23.5%
Incomplete post-secondary	134	10.6%
Trades certificate	148	11.7%
Non-university certificate or diploma	261	20.6%
University certificate or diploma	66	5.2%
University degree	252	19.9%
All respondents	1,269	100.0%

Figure 2.4 Completed Education Levels, Survey Respondents (person most responsible for child care arrangements)

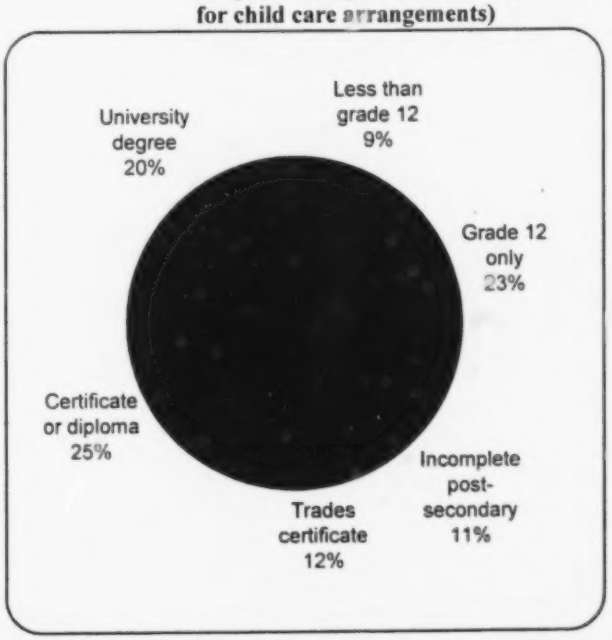
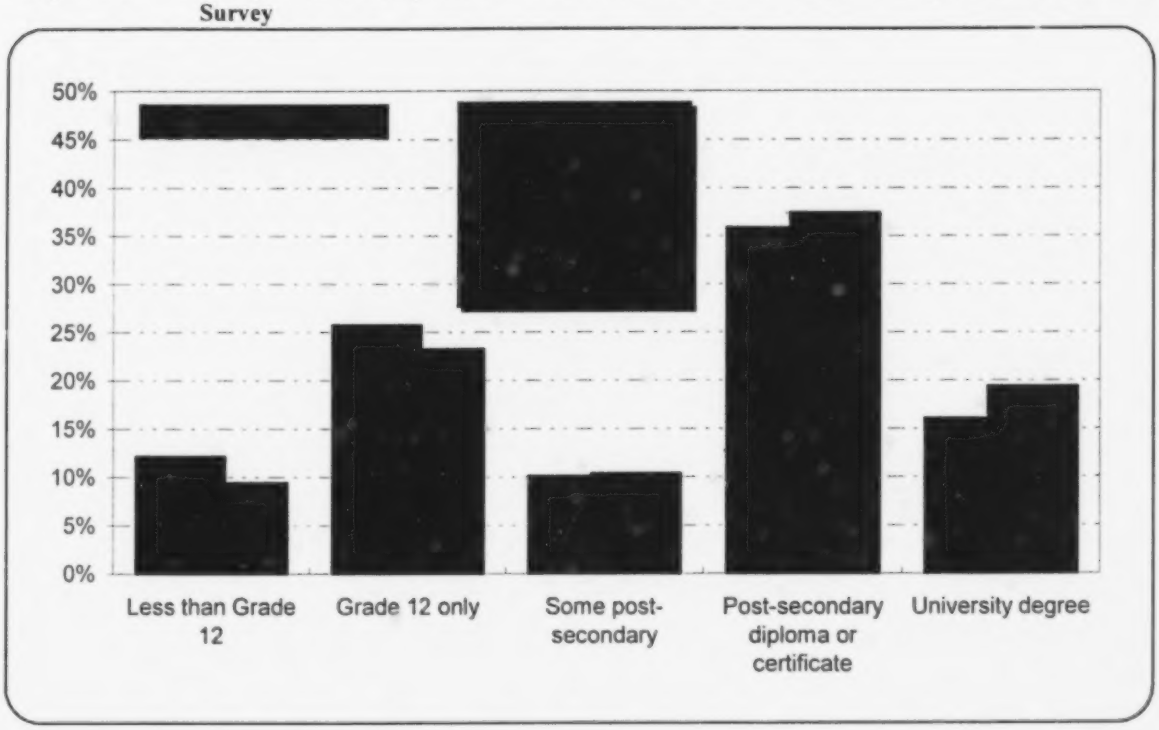


Figure 2.5 **Comparison of Completed Education Levels for Women Respondents, LFS and Child Care Survey**



Aboriginal Identity

Using the "identity" concept, the survey asked respondents: "Are you an Aboriginal person, that is a member of a First Nation or Métis?". Overall, 15% of respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal – 9% as First Nation members and 7% as Métis.

Current data to check the child care survey results are not available but the 1996 Census found that 12% of women with children at home (of any age) were Aboriginal. The 15% figure from the survey is reasonable given that Aboriginal women are more likely to have young children and that the population has been growing since 1996.

The relative scarcity of telephones in Reserve households means that representation for the on-Reserve population was low. Overall, 29 households representing 2.3% of the survey respondents reported their residence as on a Reserve.

Table 2.4 **Aboriginal Identity of Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)**

	Number	Percent of total
Non-Aboriginal	1,074	84.7%
Yes, First Nation	110	8.7%
Yes, Métis	83	6.6%
All respondents	1,267	100.0%

Ethnic Origin

The ethnic origin of the respondent was determined with a question similar to the one routinely asked on the Statistics Canada Census, namely: "To which cultural or ethnic groups did your ancestors belong?".

Table 2.5 shows that the three largest ethnic groups are:

British, representing 28% of respondents;
German, representing 18% of respondents; and
Aboriginal representing 16% of respondents if both those of Aboriginal identity and Aboriginal origin are considered.

Figure 2.6 **Aboriginal Identity of Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)**

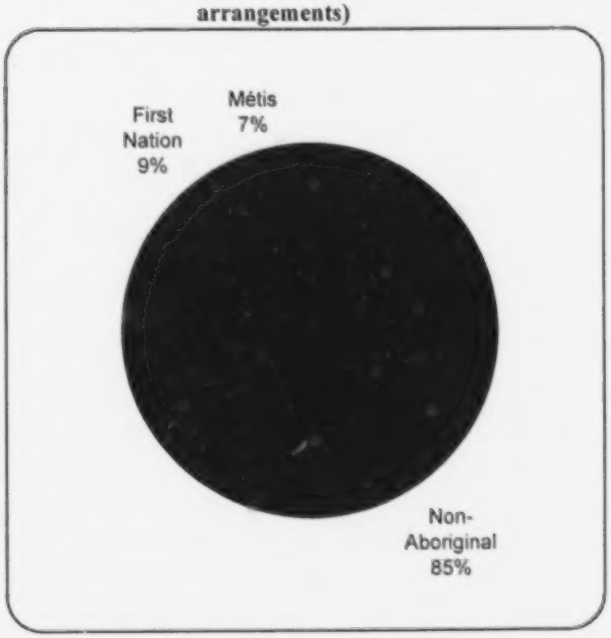


Figure 2.7 **Ethnic Origin of Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)**

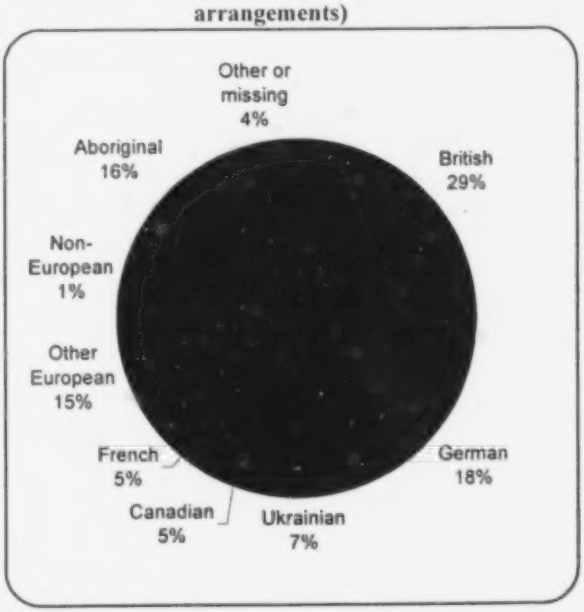


Table 2.5 **Ethnic Origin of Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)**

	Number	Percent of total
Aboriginal Identity*	193	15.3%
British (English, Irish, etc.)	350	27.6%
German	233	18.4%
Ukrainian	93	7.3%
Canadian	65	5.1%
French	64	5.1%
Other European	184	14.5%
Aboriginal*	12	0.9%
Non-European	19	1.5%
Other or missing	54	4.3%
All respondents	1,267	100.0%

* respondents who reported Aboriginal Identity were not asked the ethnic origin question so those who reported Aboriginal origins did not report Aboriginal identity.

2.2 Household Characteristics

Several characteristics of the survey respondents are related to the entire household rather than the person who responded to the interview. These household characteristics are described in this section.

Region

The sampling frame used by Environics includes the postal code of the phone number and the location of the household was verified with the respondent by asking about the community in which they lived.

Table 2.6 shows that just under one half (44%) of households were located in the cities of Regina and Saskatoon. Other urban areas with a population of at least 1,000 persons accounted for another 31% and the remaining 24% of households were located in rural areas, either a farm, a small community, a Reserve or a community in the North.

Saskatchewan Health's "covered" population, that is, the population with a valid health card can be used to estimate the number of children in each of these four survey regions with the population of younger children. This provides the geographic distribution of children rather than the distribution of households. The covered population is only available in five-year age breakdowns so estimates of the number of children under thirteen years of age were made.

In August 2000, the distribution of young children in the province was similar to the distribution found in the survey. According to Saskatchewan Health, there were somewhat more children in rural areas and somewhat fewer in urban areas. This is probably a consequence of the slight under-representation of the Reserve population in the survey.

Table 2.6 Household Location

	Number	Percent of total
Saskatoon	297	23.3%
Regina	269	21.1%
Other urban areas with a population of 1,000 or more	398	31.3%
Rural including communities with a population less than 1,000, Reserves, and the Far North	309	24.3%
All respondents	1,273	100.0%

Figure 2.8 Household Location

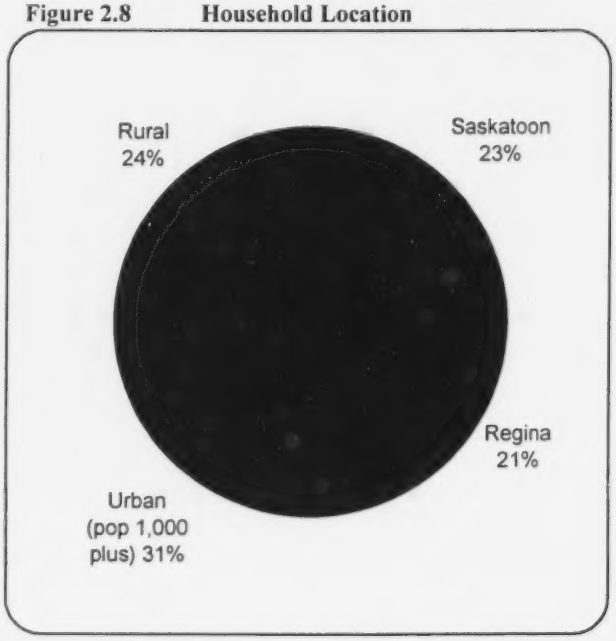
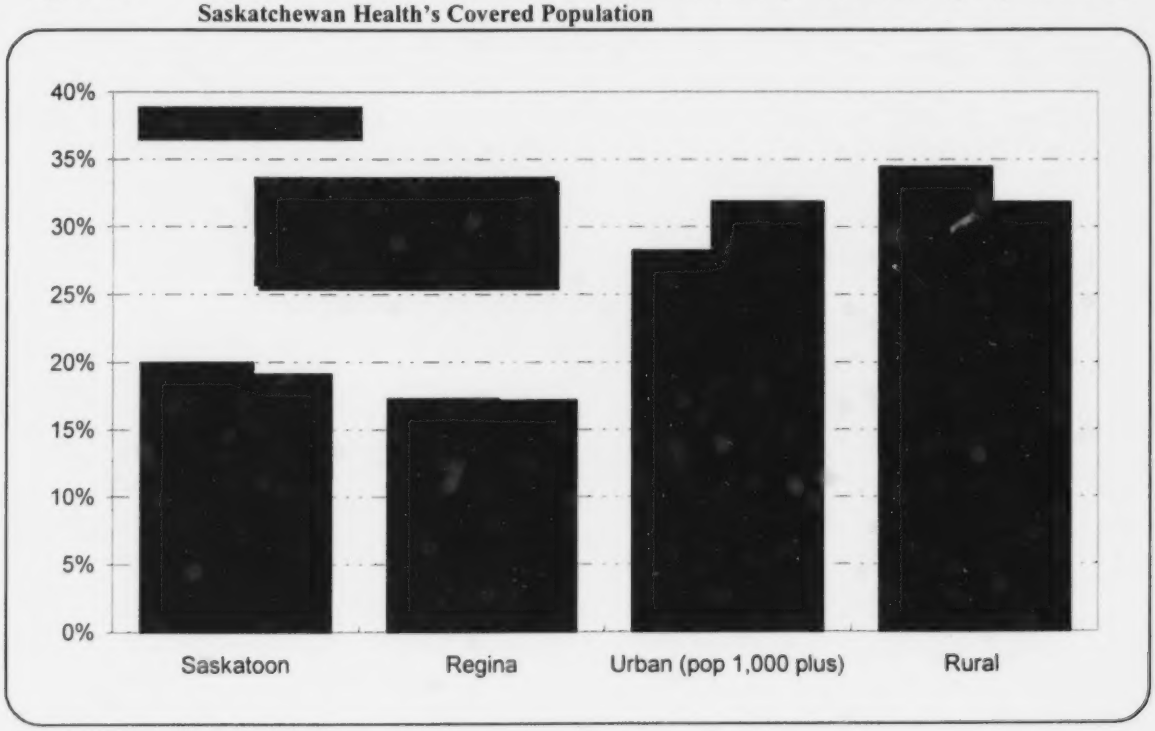


Figure 2.9 **Regional Distribution of Children Under Thirteen, Comparison of Survey Population and Saskatchewan Health's Covered Population**



Income

Respondents were asked to estimate their total household income before taxes and deductions in the prior (2000) year. As with many income questions asked in telephone interviews, the refusal rate was quite high for this question; 9% of respondents either didn't know or refused to provide household income (see Table 2.7).

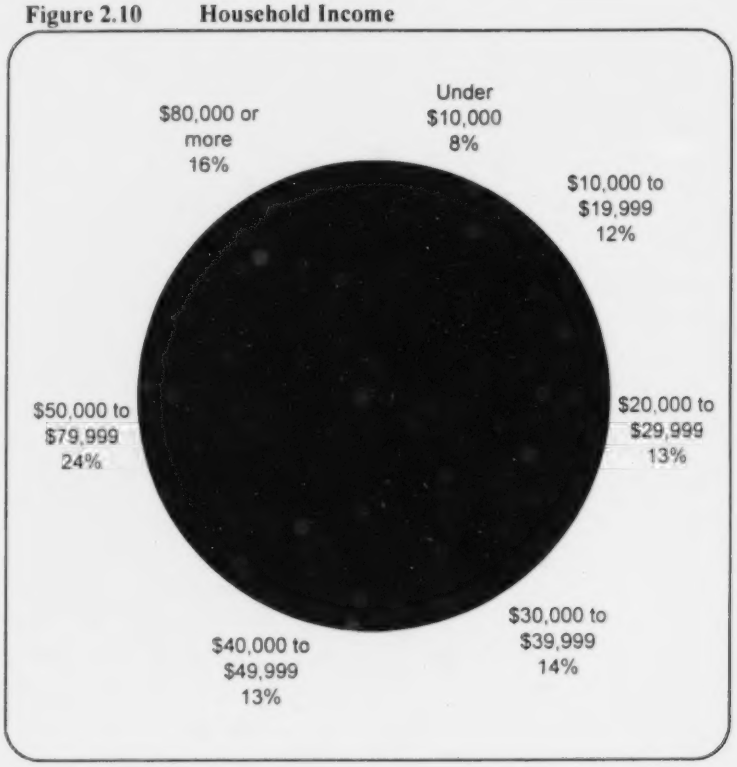
Among those who reported their income, approximately one third had annual incomes under $30,000, one quarter had incomes between $30,000 and $49,999 and the remaining 39% had incomes above $50,000.

Table 2.7 **Household Income**

	Number	Percent of total	Percent excluding missing
Under $10,000	92	7.2%	7.9%
$10,000 to $19,999	143	11.2%	12.3%
$20,000 to $29,999	155	12.2%	13.4%
$30,000 to $39,999	166	13.0%	14.3%
$40,000 to $49,999	152	11.9%	13.1%
$50,000 to $79,999	272	21.4%	23.5%
$80,000 or more	179	14.1%	15.5%
Refused, don't know, missing	115	9.0%	...
All respondents	1,273	100.0%	100.0%

These incomes are generally above the average incomes for all households in the province. For example, 41% of households in the province had 1999 incomes below $30,000 compared with 33% of households in the survey. And 35% had incomes over $50,000 compared with 40% of households in the survey. The difference is a consequence of the fact that households with young children tend to have two adults and, therefore, higher household incomes.

Figure 2.10 Household Income



A comparison between the survey respondents and the Statistics Canada *Survey of Household Spending*[2] reveals differences in the income categories. In particular, the survey respondents under-represent those with incomes in the $50,000 to $80,000 range of annual incomes (see Figure 2.11). There are three possible explanations for the discrepancy; all probably contributing to some degree.

1. Perhaps households with two working parents, many of whom will be in this income category, were harder to reach or more inclined to refuse. They could be systematically under-represented in the survey results.

2. Secondly, respondents have a tendency to underestimate total household income and/or report income after deductions rather than gross income, especially if there is more than one earner in the household. Without consulting other family members, the respondents may not have known the total household income from all sources.

3. Thirdly, the number of respondents who refused to answer this question or did not know may be disproportionately in the $50,000 plus income category.

In the balance of this report, the under-representation of households in high income categories will be monitored. When income level is a factor in child care use or child care issues, the responses will be examined separately by income category to account for the representation issue.

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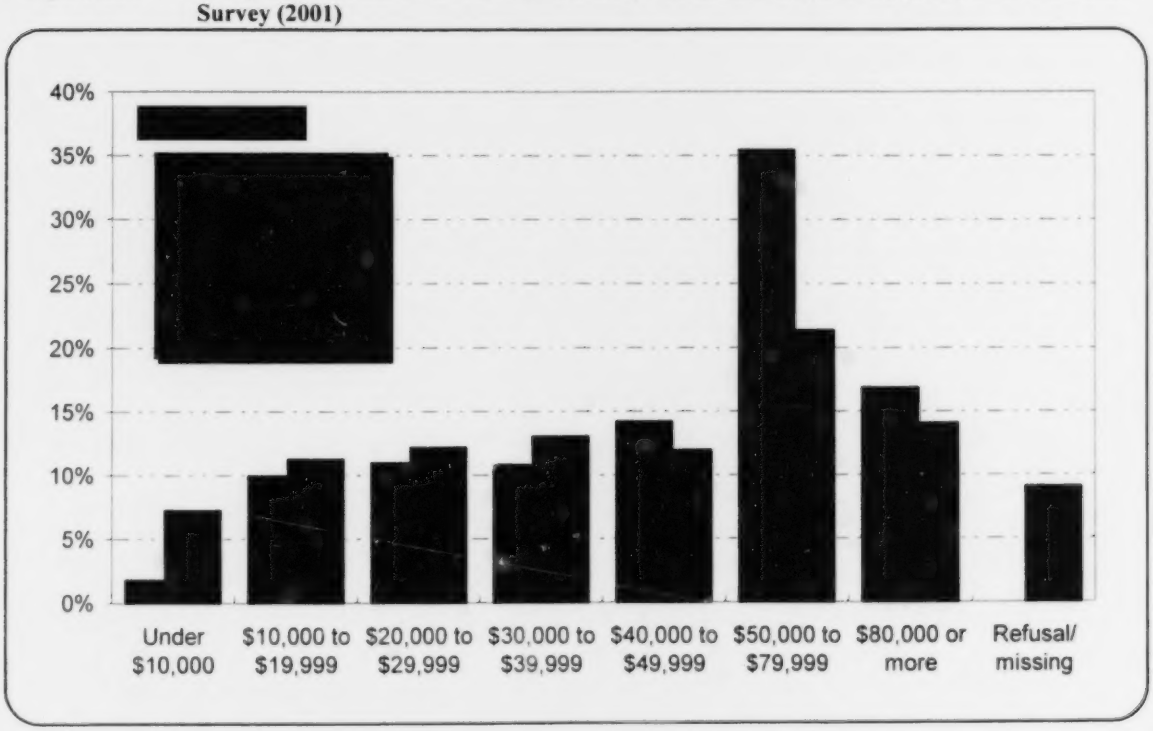
2 The Survey of Household Spending is based on the Labour Force Survey frame and therefore excludes the population living on Reserve.

Figure 2.11 Comparison of Household Incomes, Survey of Household Spending (1999) and Child Care Survey (2001)



Household income is, of course, affected by the number of adults in the household because there are more opportunities for employment earnings among two parent families. The reverse is true as well; the income required to maintain a given standard of living is affected by the number of persons in the household. For this reason, the per-person household income was estimated from the income ranges reported in the survey. Table 2.8 shows the results.

Approximately one third of households have incomes per person of less than $8,000 which would indicate that the persons in the household are probably living with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cutoffs, a commonly used poverty measure. Approximately one quarter have annual incomes per person of $15,000 or more.

Table 2.8 Household Income per Person

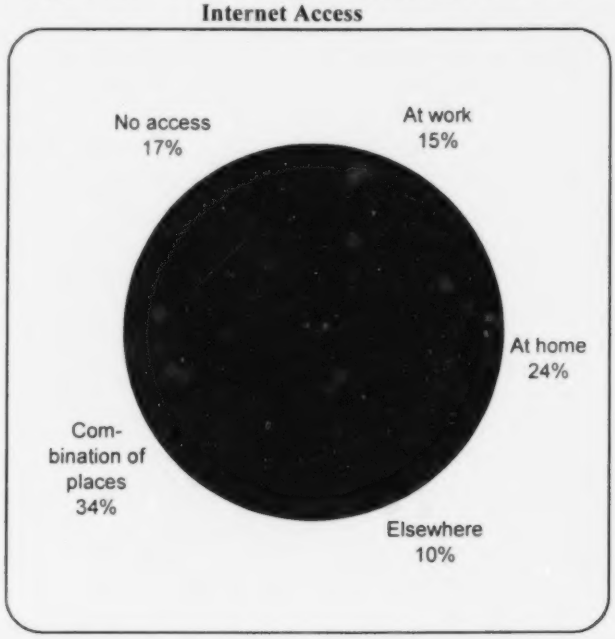
	Number	Percent of total	Percent excluding missing
Under $8,000	393	30.9%	33.9%
$8,000 to $15,000	463	36.4%	40.0%
$15,000 or more	303	23.8%	26.2%
Refused, don't know, missing	115	9.0%	...
All respondents	1,273	100.0%	100.0%

Internet Access

Internet access is known to be related to employment, age, income, and education. That is, access tends to be more common among those who work, among those who have higher levels of education and income, and among those who are in younger age groups.

Accordingly, one would expect that Internet access is higher among respondents than among the general population and Figure 2.12 confirms this. Fully 83% of households have someone who has access to the Internet, either at work, at home, or elsewhere. The provincial average is less than 50% of households[3].

Figure 2.12 Percentage of Households that have Internet Access



[3] Source: Statistics Canada, Household Internet Use Survey 2000, ISBN:660-60609-7, 47% of Saskatchewan households have Internet access at some location.

2.3 Family Structures

While households with a "traditional" family are relatively easy to describe, the variety of household types and combinations of families in a single household makes the classification of family and household structures complex. In this section, a variety of indicators for household structure are described, starting with one of the simplest – the number of persons.

Household Size

Four out of five households have two adults present (see Table 2.9). Most but not all of these will be headed by husband-wife couples.

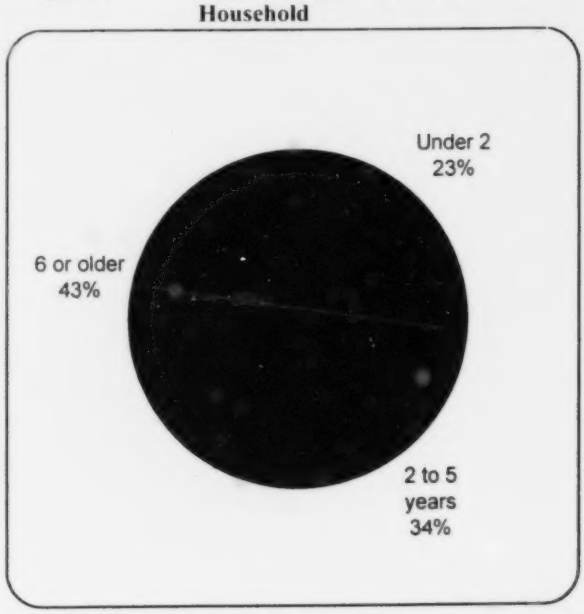
The vast majority (82%) of households have only one or two children under the age of thirteen although there are almost 5% with four or more. In total, there were 2,318 children under the age of the thirteen in the surveyed households. The average number of children under thirteen years of age is 1.8 per household.

More than one half of the households had at least one child under the age of six. The remaining 43% of households have only school-aged children so their major child care needs would presumably be limited to periods outside school hours and when schools were closed.

Table 2.9 Household Structures

		Number	Percent of total
Number of adults (18 & older)	One	216	16.7%
	Two	1,023	80.4%
	Three or more	34	2.7%
	Total	1,273	100.0%
Number of children under 13	One	541	42.5%
	Two	500	39.3%
	Three	176	13.8%
	Four	38	3.0%
	Five or more	18	1.4%
	Total	1,273	100.0%
Age of youngest child	Under 2 years	294	23.1%
	2 to 5 years	430	33.8%
	6 or older	549	43.1%
	Total	1,273	100.0%

Figure 2.13 Age of Youngest Child in the Household



Family Structure

The relationship between the adults in the household can be combined with the age of children to produce a general measure of family structure. Table 2.10 shows the detailed results and Figure 2.14 summarizes the same information.

The majority of households are headed by one husband-wife couple with no other adults in the household. These kinds of households account for 73% of all households, 78% if common-law relationships are considered as equivalent. Another 17% of households are headed by a single parent and have no other adults in the household.

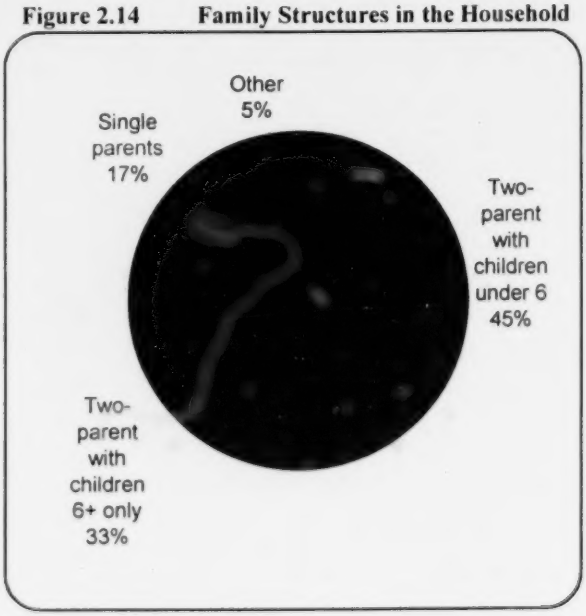
The remaining 5% of households either consist of extended or blended families with three or more adults (2.2%) or other arrangements (2.8%)[4].

Looked at another way, 45% of households had pre-school children and were headed by a two-parent family. One third were two-parent families with the youngest child at least six years of age.

Table 2.10 Family Structures

	Number	Percent of total
Husband-wife, with pre-school (under 6) only	310	24.3%
Husband-wife, with school-aged only	406	31.9%
Husband-wife with both	219	17.2%
Common law with pre-school (under 6) only	23	1.8%
Common law with school-aged only	15	1.2%
Common law with both	17	1.4%
Single parent, with pre-school (under 6) only	64	5.0%
Single parent, with school-aged only	108	8.5%
Single parent with both	47	3.7%
Three or more adults	28	2.2%
Other	35	2.8%
All households	1,273	100.0%

Figure 2.14 Family Structures in the Household



[4] Of the 35 cases, 7 had an older brother/sister as the adult in the household, 17 had an adult that was not the parent, 8 were multi-generational but with only two adults, and the remaining three could not be classified.

2.4 Labour Market Activity During the Reference Week

Because labour market activity is a major impetus for child care demand, a number of questions about the labour market activity of the respondent and, if present, their spouse were determined. Unless otherwise specified, attendance at school is considered a labour market activity in this section.

These questions related to the "reference" week for the survey which was chosen to be the week prior to the survey. This sequence in the survey instrument was started with the question "Thinking only of regular activities last week, were you employed, or attending school, college, or university, both, none of the above, or on maternity leave?".

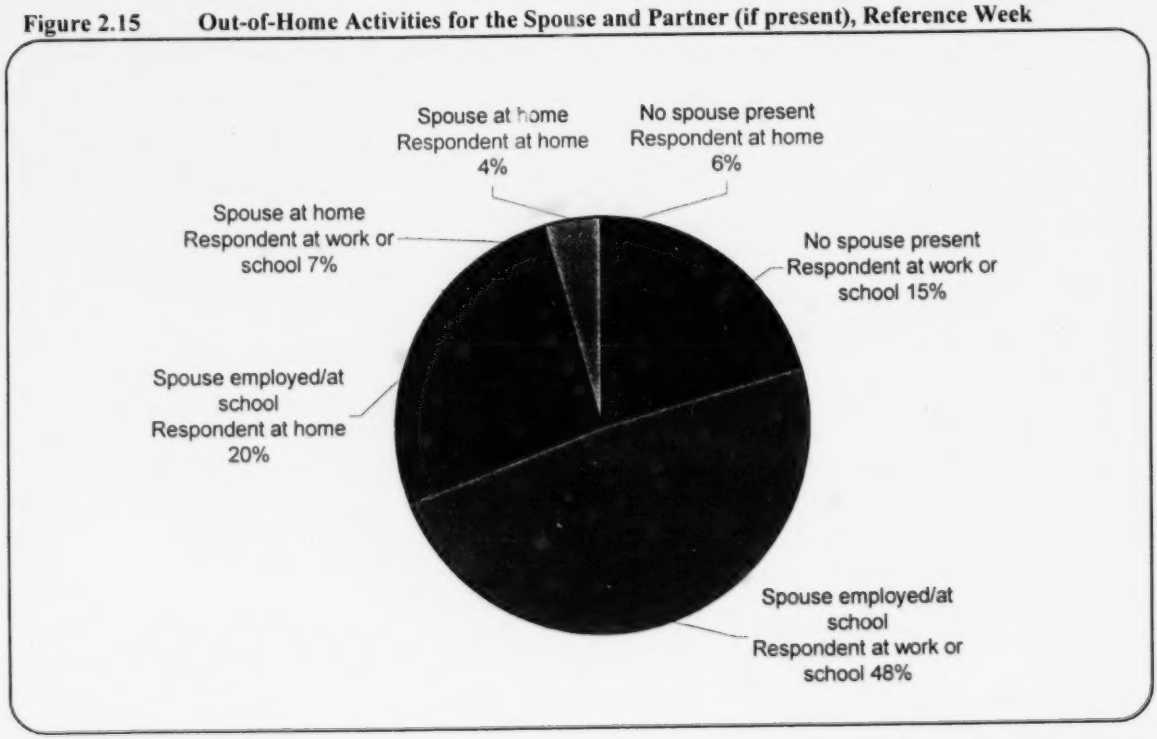
Table 2.11 shows that, in seven out of ten cases, the respondent was regularly out of the home, either working (61%), going to school (6%), or both (2%).

Among the 381 respondents who were not regularly out of the home during the reference week, two thirds had a spouse at work or school. Among respondents who were at work or school, the majority (69%) had a spouse who was also regularly out of the home at work or school.

Table 2.11 Out of Home Activities, Respondent

	Number	Percent of total
Employed	781	61.4%
At school	79	6.2%
Both work and school	31	2.4%
None of these	335	26.3%
Maternity leave	46	3.6%
All households	1,272	100.0%

Figure 2.15 Out-of-Home Activities for the Spouse and Partner (if present), Reference Week



Taken together, as Figure 2.15 shows:

37% of households had at least one adult regularly at home; and

63% of households had either both partners at work/school (48%), or a single parent at work or school (15%).

Most but not all of the stay-at-home respondents were doing so voluntarily. Among those who reported that they were not out of the home during the reference week, more than two thirds had chosen to stay at home to look after their children (see Table 2.12). One quarter (24%) were looking for work or were on maternity leave and 8% were at home partly for child care reasons and partly for other reasons.

Table 2.12 Reason for Staying at Home During Reference Week, Respondent

		Number	Percent of total
Chosen to stay at home for child care		259	68%
Partly for child care reasons		30	8%
Other reasons	Looking for work	31	8%
	Family responsibilities other than child care	4	1%
	Health reasons	10	3%
	Maternity/ Paternity leave	46	12%
	Other reasons	2	1.0%
All households		381	100.0%

Respondent's Type of Work

For the 782 respondents who worked in the reference week, 8% had more than one job. The characteristics of the main job and the second and third jobs are shown in Table 2.13. Note that these employment characteristics also apply to respondents that were both working and going to school.

The majority of respondents (81% of whom are women) at their main job:

travel to work (90%);

work in full-time, permanent jobs (66%);

work regular Monday to Friday hours (64%); and

work in the service sector (78%).

Compared with the main job, the second and third jobs are more likely to be part-time with irregular hours and in the private sector.

A comparison with the general population of working women in Saskatchewan reveals that respondents generally follow the provincial pattern. They are equally likely to be working at more than one job and somewhat more likely to be working full-time. The industry distribution is similar although they are less likely than the general population of working women to be working in retail/wholesale trade.

Figure 2.16 Respondent Work Schedule at Main Job

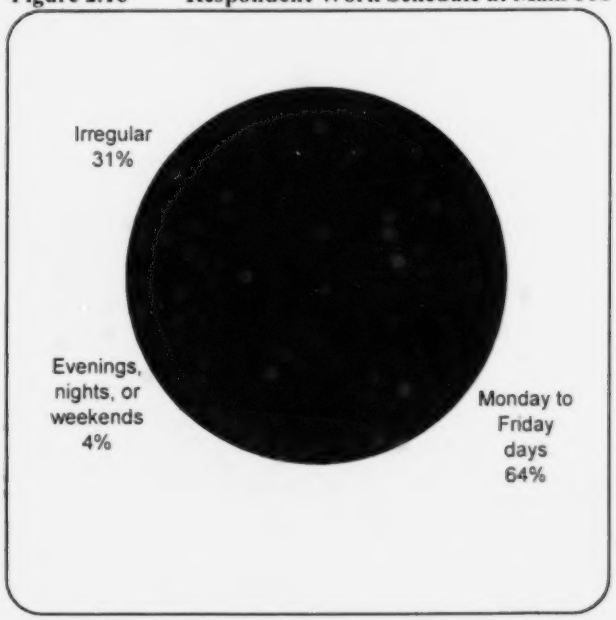


Table 2.13 Characteristics of Respondent's Employment

		Main Job		Second and third jobs*	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Multiple Job Holder?	Yes	64	7.9%	...	...
	No	748	92.1%	...	..
	Total	812	100.0%	...	...
Travel to work	Travel to work	727	89.5%	46	66.7%
	Home based	77	9.5%	19	27.5%
	No fixed workplace	8	1.0%	4	5.8%
	Total	812	100.0%	69	100.0%
Industry group	Agriculture, resources	68	8.4%	3	4.3%
	Manufacturing, construction	35	4.3%	1	1.4%
	Trade	78	9.6%	5	7.2%
	Public sector	313	38.6%	23	33.3%
	Private sector services	317	39.1%	32	53.6%
	Total	811	100.0%	69	100.0%
Job type	Full time	537	66.2%	7	10.1%
	Permanent part-time	189	23.3%	29	42.0%
	Casual, contract, temporary	85	10.5%	33	47.8%
	Total	811	100.0%	69	100.0%
Hours of work	Part time (under 30)	235	29.0%	67	97.1%
	30 to 40	429	52.9%	2	2.9%
	41 or more	147	18.1%	0	0.0%
	Total	811	100.0%	69	100.0%
Work schedule	Monday to Friday days	522	64.4%	24	34.8%
	Evenings, nights, or weekends	36	4.4%	13	18.8%
	Irregular	253	31.2%	32	46.4%
	Total	811	100.0%	69	100.0%

* Of the 69 jobs in this column, 64 are for respondents with two jobs and 5 are for respondents with three jobs.

Partner's Type of Work

For the 840 household in which a partner or spouse was present and at work during the reference week, 9% had more than one job. The characteristics of the main job and the second and third jobs are shown in Table 2.14. Note that these employment characteristics also apply to partners that are both working and going to school.

The majority of respondents (81% of whom are men) at their main job:

travel to work (88%);
work in full-time, permanent jobs (87%);
work regular Monday to Friday hours (59%); and
work in the service sector (59%).

Compared with the main job, the second and third jobs are more likely to be part-time, home-based businesses and with irregular hours.

A comparison with the general population of working men in Saskatchewan reveals that respondents generally follow the pattern of other men. They are equally likely to be working at more than one job and are somewhat more likely to be working full-time. The industry distribution is similar although they are less likely than the general population of working men to be in retail/wholesale trade or agriculture and more likely to be working in the health and social services industry group.

Figure 2.17 Partner's Work Schedule at Main Job

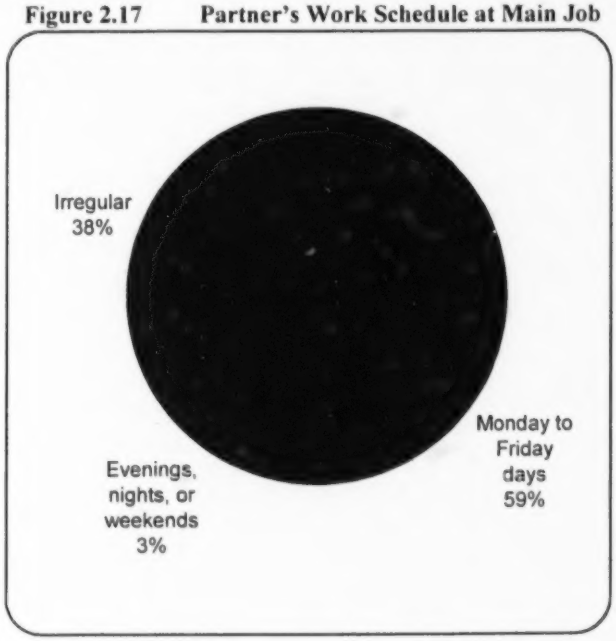


Table 2.14 Characteristics of Partner's Employment

		Main Job		Second and third jobs*	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Multiple Job Holder?	Yes	76	9.1%	...	...
	No	764	90.9%	...	..
	Total	840	100.0%	...	...
Travel to work	Travel to work	742	88.3%	55	64.7%
	Home based	85	8.8%	29	34.1%
	No fixed workplace	13	1.5%	1	1.2%
	Total	840	100.0%	85	100.0%
Industry group	Agriculture, resources	185	12.9%	29	34.9%
	Manufacturing, construction	92	11.0%	8	9.6%
	Trade	66	7.8%	3	3.6%
	Public sector	165	19.8%	16	19.3%
	Private sector services	330	39.3%	27	32.5%
	Total	837	100.0%	83	100.0%
Job type	Full time	731	87.2%	26	31.3%
	Permanent part-time	60	7.2%	31	37.3%
	Casual, contract, temporary	48	5.7%	26	31.3%
	Total	838	100.0%	83	100.0%
Hours of work	Part time (under 30)	95	11.3%	70	84.3%
	30 to 40	397	31.5%	7	8.4%
	41 or more	346	27.5%	6	7.2%
	Total	838	100.0%	83	100.0%
Work schedule	Monday to Friday days	493	58.7%	16	19.2%
	Evenings, nights, or weekends	25	3.0%	18	21.7%
	Irregular	322	38.3%	50	60.2%
	Total	840	100.0%	83	100.0%

* Of the 85 jobs in this column, 77 are for respondents with two jobs and 8 are for respondents with three jobs.

School Attendance

In 142 of the households surveyed, 11% of all households, one or both of the parents were attending school. Table 2.15 shows the characteristics of the school attendance for those who attended school and did not work. (The characteristics of the school attendance were not asked for those who were both working and going to school.)

The majority of those who were exclusively attending school were doing so on a full-time basis, typically at a post-secondary institution, on a straight Monday to Friday schedule.

Figure 2.18 Type of School Attended, Respondents who go to School and do not Work

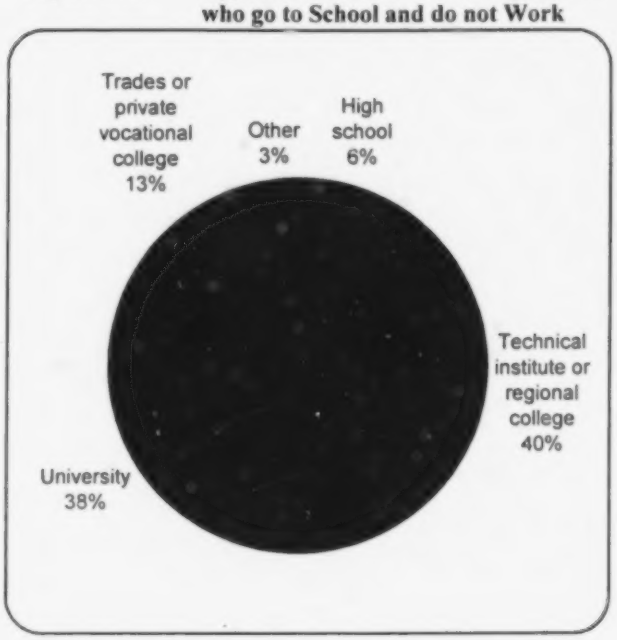


Table 2.15 Characteristics of School Attendance

		Respondent		Spouse	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
School attendance	Yes with employment as well	31	28.7%	11	28.2%
	School only	79	71.3%	28	71.8%
	Total	108	100.0%	39	100.0%
Hours	Full time	69	87.6%	23	84.5%
	Part time	10	12.4%	4	15.5%
	Total	79	100.0%	28	100.0%
Type of school	High school	5	6.4%	1	2.9%
	Technical school	32	40.1%	11	39.5%
	University	30	38.2%	9	32.4%
	Private vocational school	10	12.4%	6	21.1%
	Other	2	3.0%	1	4.2%
	Total	79	100.0%		100.0%
Work schedule	Monday to Friday days	57	71.7%	21	76.1%
	Evenings, nights, or weekends	7	8.4%	...	...
	Irregular	16	19.9%	6	19.7%
	Total	79	100.0%	27	100.0%

* Of the 142 households that involved school attendance, 5 had both the respondent and partner at school, 30 had one parent working and the other going to school, 46 had a respondent going to school with no spouse present, and the remaining 61 had a combination of employment and school.

2.5 Summary of Key Demographic Characteristics

In the balance of this report, the demographic characteristics described earlier in this section are used to help explain responses to questions about child care and child care preferences. The key indicators used, collapsed if necessary to yield reliable statistical results, for the characteristics of the respondents and their households are shown in Tables 2.16 through 2.18. Counts for both the number of households and the number of children in those households are included in the tables[5].

The age, sex, Aboriginal status, and educational attainment of the respondent are key demographic variables (Table 2.16). The ethnicity of the respondent may be required for the analysis of certain questions but is not expected to be an important characteristic in the analysis.

Table 2.16 Key Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)

		Households		Children	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Gender of respondent	Male	237	19%	395	17%
	Female	1,036	81%	1,923	83%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	10%	198	9%
	25 to 34	512	40%	1,001	43%
	35 or older	634	50%	1,119	48%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Age of child	Under 2 years	...	...	503	22%
	2 to 5 years	...	...	543	23%
	6 or older	...	...	1,272	55%
	Total	...	...	2,318	100%
Completed Education	Grade 12 or less	540	43%	1,011	44%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	38%	865	37%
	University degree	252	20%	435	19%
	Total	1,269	100%	2,311	100%
Aboriginal identity	No	1,074	85%	1,913	83%
	Yes	193	15%	395	17%
	Total	1,267	100%	2,308	100%

5 Because this was a random survey of households, data on the characteristics of the children in the household is inherently less reliable – children in larger households are over-represented in the results so the statistics should be used with caution.

Table 2.17 Key Labour Market Indicators for the Respondent (person most responsible for child care arrangements)

		Households		Children	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	70%	1,528	66%
	No	380	30%	788	34%
	Total	1,272	100%	2,316	100%
Respondent job or school type	Not working/at school	373	29%	769	33%
	Full time (combined)	668	53%	1,100	47%
	Part time	232	18%	449	19%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Respondent job or school schedule	Not working/at school	373	29%	769	33%
	Monday to Friday only	557	44%	939	41%
	Non-standard	343	27%	609	26%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%

The respondent's out-of-home activities are also key factors in their use of child care activities. Three related indicators are used for this (Table 2.17) – whether or not they were regularly out of the home, the hours of work if they were employed or at school, and the type of schedule at school or for their job.

Other labour market characteristics, such as the location, hours of work, work schedule, and industry group for the job will be examined as necessary.

For households, the family type and age of the youngest child will be important characteristics in determining child care needs. As well, the out-of-home activities of family members will determine if the household "is in the day care market" and to what extent (see Table 2.18).

Location and income (both in absolute levels and adjusted for the number of persons) are also important characteristics.

Of course, many of these characteristics are inter-related. The expectation is that different responses will be evident in a number of related variables. When this occurs, best efforts will be made to determine which of the characteristics is the most important.

Table 2.18 Key Household Characteristics

		Households		Children	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	23%	523	23%
	Regina	269	21%	469	20%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	31%	716	31%
	Rural	309	24%	609	26%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	34%	719	34%
	$30,000 to $49,999	318	28%	580	28%
	$50,000 plus	451	39%	810	38%
	Total	1,158	100%	2,109	100%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	393	34%	841	40%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	40%	818	39%
	More than $15,000	303	26%	450	21%
	Total	1,158	100%	2,109	100%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	45%	1,157	50%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	33%	681	29%
	Single parents	219	17%	367	16%
	Other	63	5%	113	5%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Age of youngest child	Under 2 years	294	23%	612	26%
	2 to 5 years	430	34%	851	37%
	6 or older	549	43%	854	37%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	43%	881	38%
	One or both part-time	213	17%	410	18%
	One partner or lone parent at home	502	40%	1,008	44%
	Total	1,262	100%	2,299	100%
Out of home activity in household	Both out of home	617	49%	1,078	47%
	No spouse, resp. out of home	188	15%	283	12%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	10%	263	11%
	Either resp. or spouse at home	338	27%	692	30%
	Total	1,272	100%	2,316	100%
One or both attending school?	No	1,131	89%	2,077	90%
	Yes	142	11%	241	10%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%

3.0 What Parents Are Doing Now: Regular Child Care Arrangements

This section describes the "regular" child care arrangements used for the children under thirteen years of age in the household. Survey respondents were asked to report on their normal child care arrangements in the week prior to the survey, that is, they were asked to exclude casual "baby sitting" arrangements.

The analysis of child care arrangements is complex. A single household can have more than one arrangement for a single child and different arrangements for different children.

Each particular kind of child care is described separately in this section with information about the number of households and number of children using the arrangement, the average hours and cost associated with it, and the activity of the parent (respondent) while the child was in this kind of care. Other characteristics for specific kinds of child care arrangements are also described.

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the respondent and the household are compared with the incidence rates. Statistically significant differences are noted and presented. More detail on these characteristics as they relate to each kind of child care is presented in Appendix C.

An overall summary is presented in Section 3.10.

3.1 Unusual Arrangements

If respondents indicated that last week was not "normal"[6], they were asked to indicate what happened that was different. Overall 11% of households affecting 9% of the children in the survey reported that their child care arrangements were abnormal in mid-March 2001.

Table 3.1 Abnormal Arrangements in the Week Prior to the Survey

	Households		Children	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Normal	1,134	89%	2,105	91%
Abnormal	138	11%	212	9%
Total	1,272	100%	2,317	100%

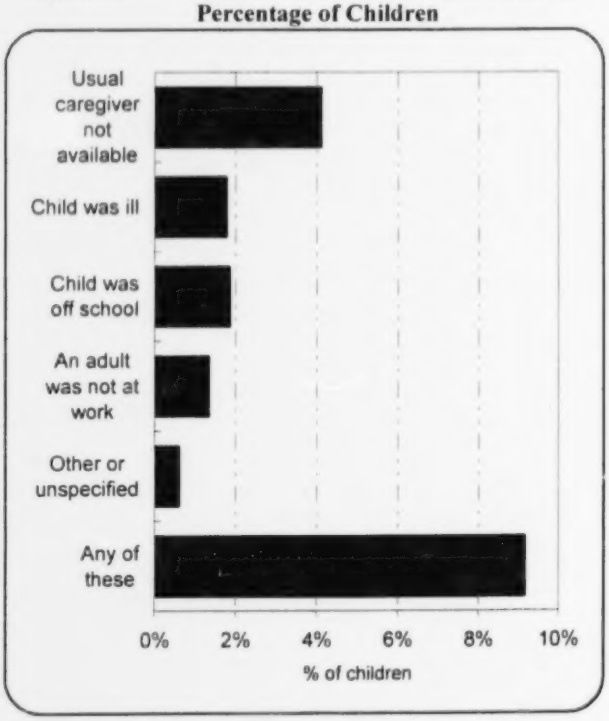
Respondents were able to mention more than one reason and, of course, could have had different reasons for different children. The most commonly mentioned reason was that their regular child care provider was not available (see Figure 3.1). Overall, 7.5% of households with 4% of the children had an abnormal week because their usual child care provider was not available. The next most common set of reasons were related to the child – either they were ill or away from school.

Not all abnormal weeks negatively affected the child care arrangements. One of the adults in the household was away from work and able to care for the child (children) in 2.5% of the households affecting 1% of the children.

One would expect that child care arrangements would be more sensitive to disruptions if both parents worked full-time or in lone-parent arrangements. Figure 3.2 shows that this is the case.

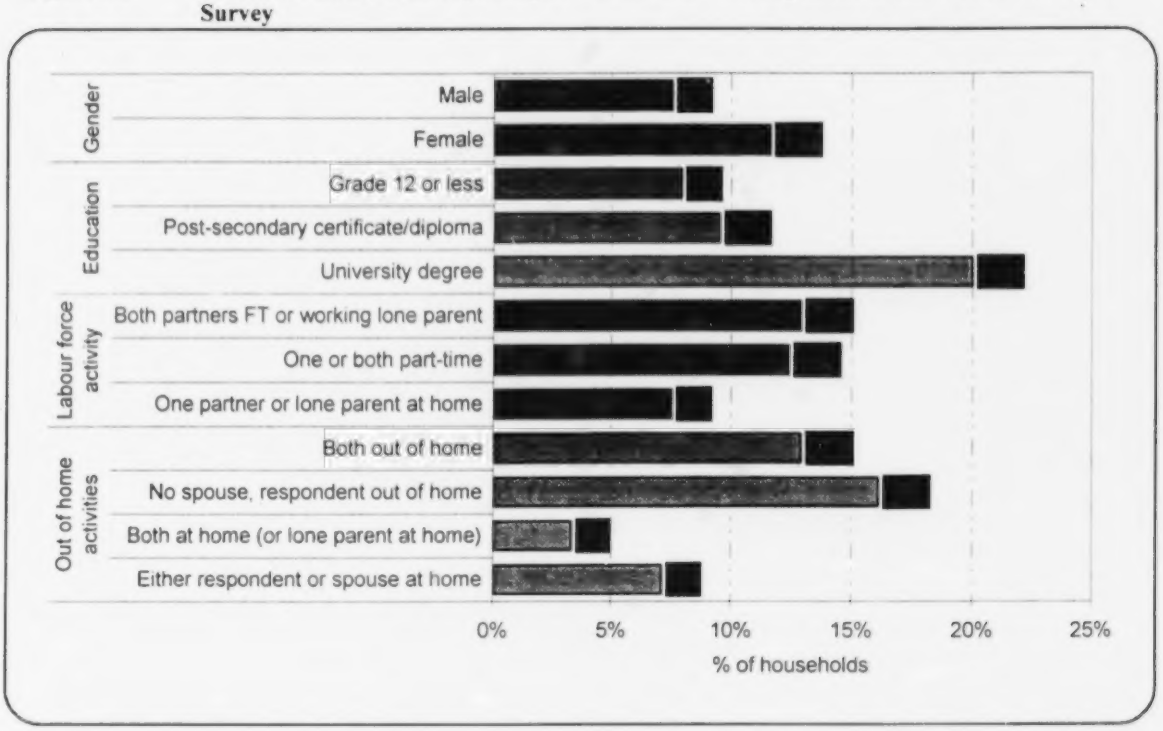
While 11% of households had an abnormal week, the proportion rises to 13% in households where both parents work or where the lone parent works. In particular, the proportion is 16% if no spouse is present and the respondent is normally out of the house. A disruption in the normal arrangement is lowest (3% of households) where there is at least one person regularly at home. One consequence of this is that respondents with higher levels of education (who are more likely to be employed) were more likely to have had a disruption in the week prior to the survey.

Figure 3.1 Reason Last Week was Not Normal, Percentage of Children



[6] The actual wording of the question was "Things like holidays, days when school is closed, illness, and care arrangements breaking down, can often interfere with a family's usual child care arrangements. Was there anything different or unusual about the arrangements you made last week?

Figure 3.2 **Percent of Households reporting an "Abnormal" Arrangement in the Week Prior to the Survey**



More detail about the households with abnormal arrangements is provided in Table C1 of Appendix C.

3.2 Care by Spouse

The first in the sequence of normal child care arrangements surveyed among respondents was care by a spouse. Table 3.2 shows that just over one half (53%) of all households in the survey used care by spouse as a child care arrangement.

Looking at only those households with a spouse present, the percentage of households using spousal care is 67%; the percentage of children in spousal care at least some of the time is 64%.

Typically, children who spend at least some time in the care of the respondent's spouse are in their care for less than 10 hours per week although the overall average is 19 hours. In 29% of the cases, the child spends at least 20 hours per week in this arrangement suggesting the equivalent of full-time care. Spousal care totals an average of 35 hours per week over all children in the household.

Table 3.2 Child Care by Spouse in the Past Week

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of spousal care	Yes	679	53%	1,202	52%
	No	332	26%	687	30%
	No spouse present	262	21%	428	18%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,317	100%
Average hours in spousal care	less than 10	...	...	615	53%
	10 to 19	...	...	210	18%
	20 or more	...	...	338	29%
	Total	...	...	1,163	100%
	Average hours	35 per week		19 per week	
Activity while child in spousal care	At work or school	424	62%	713	59%
	Other	256	38%	489	41%
	Total	680	100%	1,202	100%

In 62% of the households, the respondent was at work or school when the child or children were in the care of the spouse.

The use of spousal care is relatively uniform among the different demographic and economic groups. One exception is that male respondents were more likely to report spousal care (78%) than female respondents (65%).

There are, however, substantial differences shown in Figure 3.4 which contains two measures of household labour market activity. In particular, the use of spousal care is much higher in households where the respondent works a non-standard work week.

Figure 3.3 Percent of Children Spending Time in the Care of the Spouse

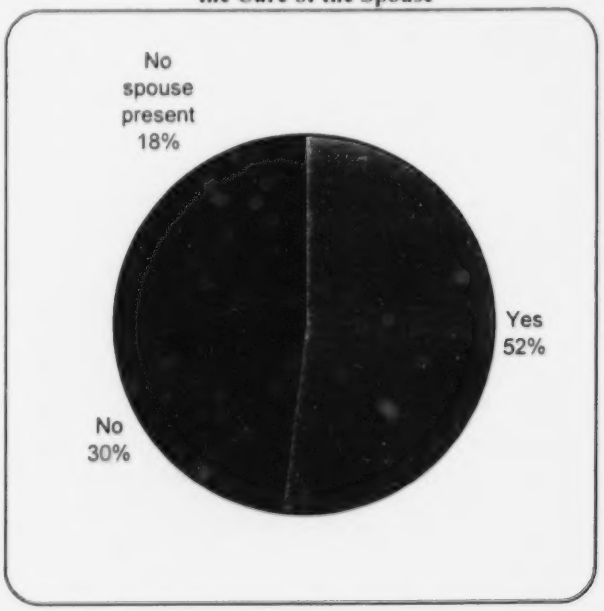
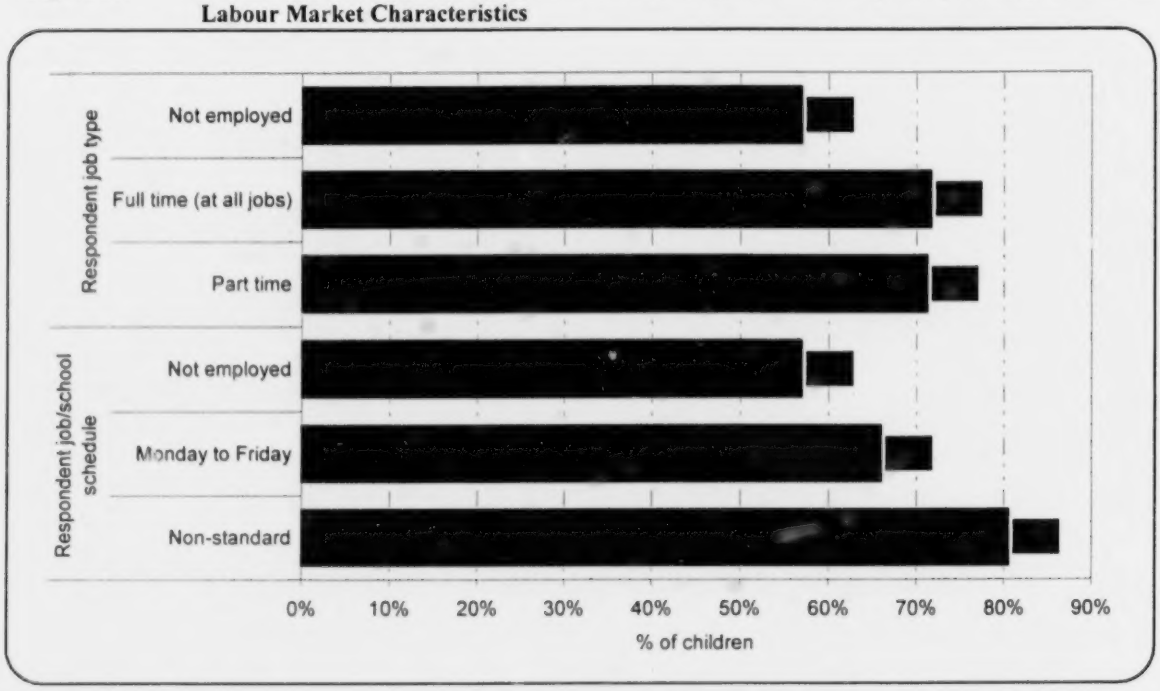


Figure 3.4 **Percent of Households using Spousal Care (among those with a spouse present), by Selected Labour Market Characteristics**



In a follow-up question to those who use spousal care, respondents were asked if they had arranged their work/school schedules "so as to eliminate or reduce the number of hours in order to eliminate or reduce the number of hours of care you would otherwise require for your child(ren)".

Overall seven out of ten households that use spousal care are doing so in a deliberate way, that is, to avoid other kinds of child care. In particular:

- 36% are doing so to avoid the costs of other kinds of child care;
- 34% are doing so because they think it is best for the child; and
- 22% are doing so because the partners want to share child care.

More detail about spousal care is provided in Table C2 of Appendix C.

Table 3.3 **Spousal Child Care Details**

		Households	
		Count	%
Have arranged schedules to avoid using external child care?	Yes	476	70%
	No	199	30%
	Total	675	100%
Reason for avoiding external child care*	Want to share child care	107	22%
	Thought it best for the child	161	34%
	Could not afford child care	172	36%
	Could not find appropriate child care	64	13%
	Want to spend more time with the children	48	10%
	Easier, more convenient	15	3%
	Other reason	6	1%
	Total	476	100%

* multiple responses allowed so individual responses total more than 100%

3.3 Care by Older Brother/Sister

In only one quarter of the surveyed households is a brother or sister old enough to help with child care present. Among these, the majority (55%) of older siblings do assist with child care.

Overall, 11% of children in 14% of the households spend at least some time in the care of an older brother or sister. The amount of time spent averages 6 hours per week per child, much less than the 19 hours per week in the care of a spouse.

As with spousal care, sibling care is most likely to occur while the respondent is at work or school (66% of households representing 63% of the children).

There are obvious relationships between sibling care and the demographics of the household. For example, care by a sibling is more common among older respondents and those who regularly work outside the home. Other characteristics are, however, not as obvious. Figure 3.6 shows that among households where an older brother or sister is present, sibling care is more common in higher income households, in households in urban centres, and among non-Aboriginal respondents.

Table 3.4 Child Care by Sibling in the Past Week

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of sibling care	Yes	181	14%	246	11%
	No	145	11%	294	13%
	No sibling present	947	74%	1,773	77%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,313	100%
Average hours in sibling care	less than 10	...	...	193	78%
	10 to 19	...	...	46	19%
	20 or more	...	...	7	3%
	Total	...	...	246	100%
	Average hours	8 per week		6 per week	
Activity while child in sibling care	At work or school	119	66%	156	63%
	Other	61	34%	90	37%
	Total	180	100%	246	100%

The higher incidence in urban centres may be a consequence of after-school care by an older sibling. Perhaps households in rural centres are less likely to have a conflict between employment schedules and school times.

The relationship between income and sibling care is harder to explain. Households with higher incomes are more likely to have two working adults and their work schedules may require some before or after school care.

More detail about sibling care is provided in Table C2 of Appendix C.

Figure 3.5 Percent of Children Spending Time with an Older Brother/Sister

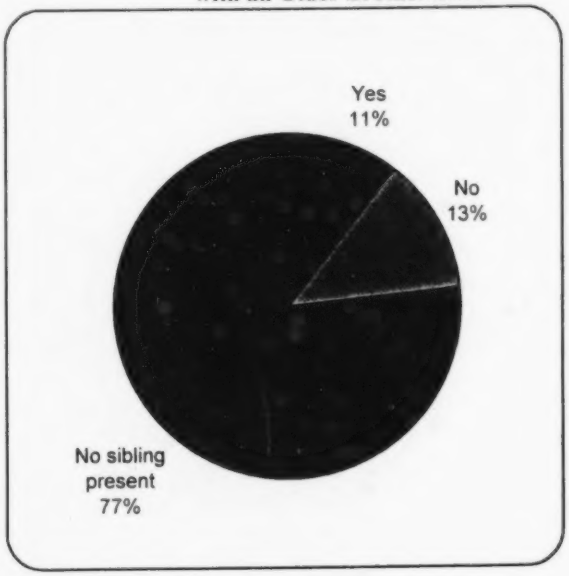
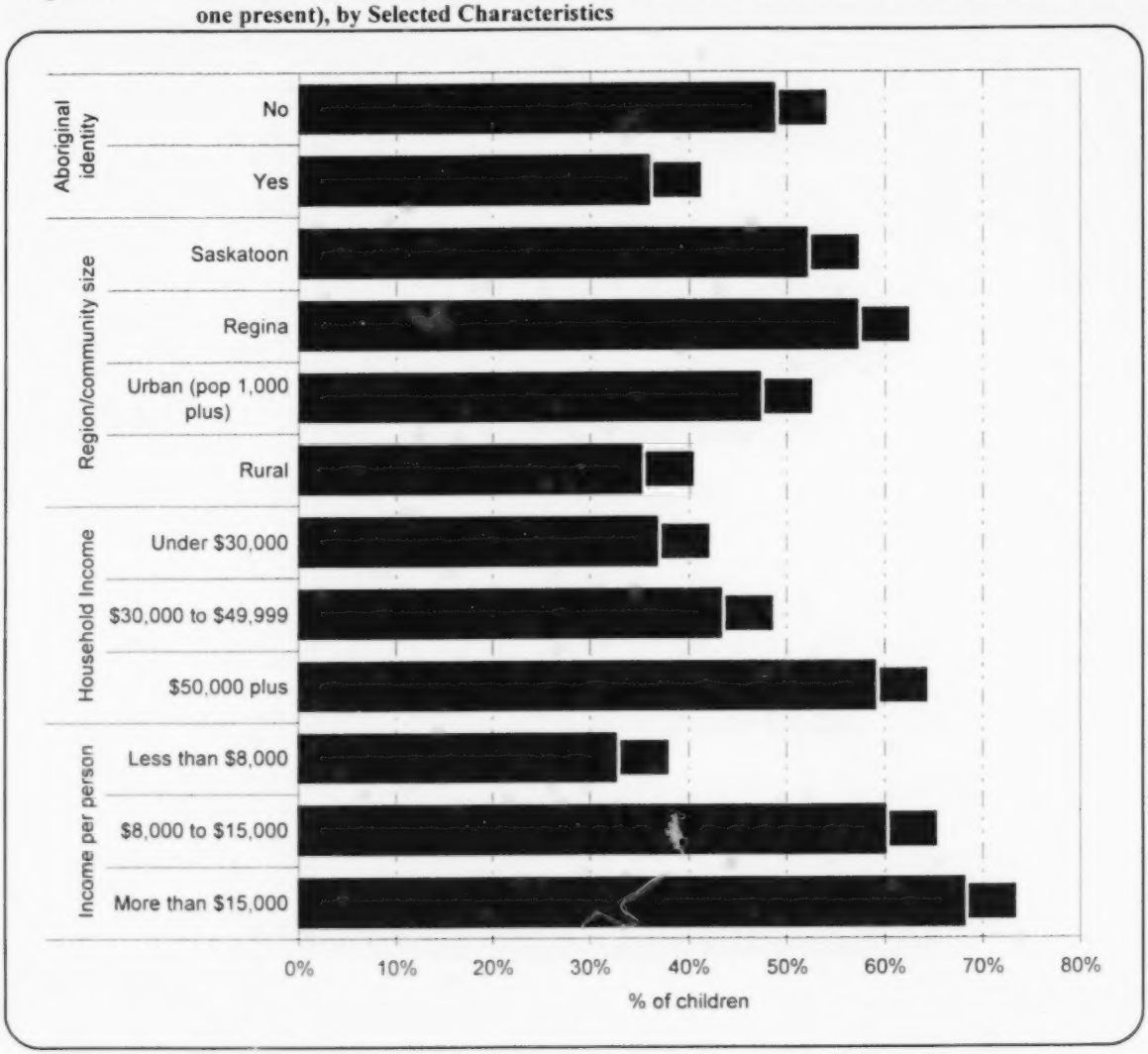


Figure 3.6 **Percent of Children Spending Time with an Older Brother/Sister (among households with one present), by Selected Characteristics**



3.4 Care by Respondent while at Work

Many respondents reported that they looked after their children while they were at work or school. This kind of an arrangement is possible in some occupations (teacher, farmer, truck driver, for example) and among those who work in home-based businesses.

In fact, of the 233 households using this kind of arrangement, 161 or 69% were in homes where the respondent or their partner operated a home based business or were employed in agriculture.

Most of the remaining 31% of households using this kind of care were in homes where the respondent was working in health care, education, or social services.

Table 3.5 Child Care by Respondent while at Work or School

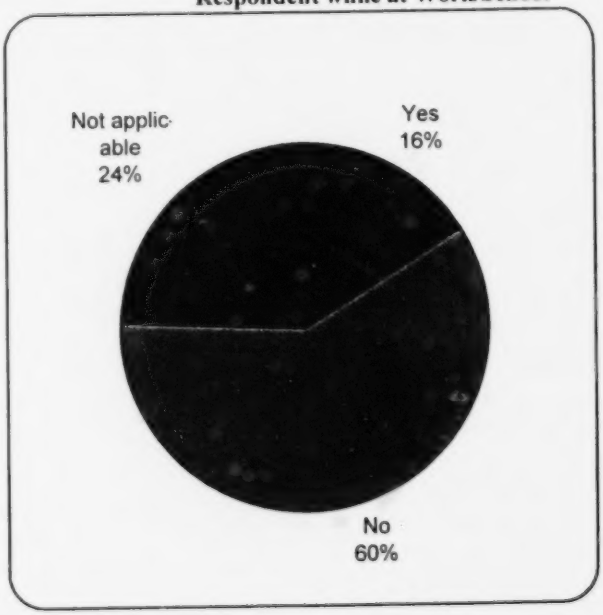
		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Care while at work or school	Yes	233	18%	371	16%
	No	721	57%	1,382	60%
	Not working or going to school	319	25%	565	24%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Hours in this kind of care	less than 10	...	...	190	52%
	10 to 19	...	...	40	11%
	20 or more	...	...	135	37%
	Total	...	...	365	100%
	Average hours	32 per week		21 per week	

On average, the individual child spends 21 hours per week under the care of the respondent while at work or school. This reflects a relatively large number of households, mostly in home based businesses, where the respondent would take care of a number of children all day. Averaged over all children in the household, this kind of care represents 32 hours per week.

Care by the respondent while they are at work or school is slightly more common in certain kinds of households. Compared with 24% of households in which the respondent or their spouse works or goes to school, the percentage increases to:

- 30% in rural areas;
- 30% in households with incomes under $30,000; and
- 37% in households where the respondent works non-standard hours.

Figure 3.7 Percent of Children in Care of Respondent while at Work/School



3.5 Self Care

Respondents were asked if their children ever spent time alone, that is, in self-care. The question was worded as "children sometimes look after themselves for a while when their parents are working or studying. Last week, were there any times when [your child was /your children were] taking care of themselves while you were out of the house?".

Some respondents may have misinterpreted this question as 2% of pre-schoolers were reported as looking after themselves. Nevertheless, the incidence of self-care (11% of children in 18% of households) is higher than might be expected.

Most of the children looking after themselves, were of course, in older age groups. Seven out of ten (72%) of those left alone were ten years of age or older; 29% were twelve years old.

On average, those who spend time alone do so for relatively short periods - 68% of children spend less than five hours per week in this kind of care and the average over all children is four hours per week. When children are looking after themselves, the respondent is typically at work. The findings are consistent with the view that children sometimes come home from or leave for school at different times than the parents - the so-called "latchkey" children.

There are several significant differences in the kinds of families and respondents for whom children spend at least some time in self-care. Figure 3.9 shows that, compared with the overall provincial average of 18%, there are higher rates among households:

- in rural and small urban areas; and
- in households where both parents work full-time, particularly in a non-standard arrangement of hours.

Table 3.6 Self-Care

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Care while at work or school	Yes	228	18%	250	11%
	No	1,044	82%	2,066	89%
	Total	1,272	100%	2,316	100%
Hours in this kind of care	less than 5	...	...	163	68%
	5 to 9	...	...	50	21%
	10 or more	...	...	24	10%
	Total	...	...	238	100%
	Average hours	7 hours		4 hours	
Activity while child was alone	At work or school	145	64%	164	66%
	Other	83	36%	85	34%
	Total	228	100%	249	100%

Figure 3.8 Percentage of Children in Self Care

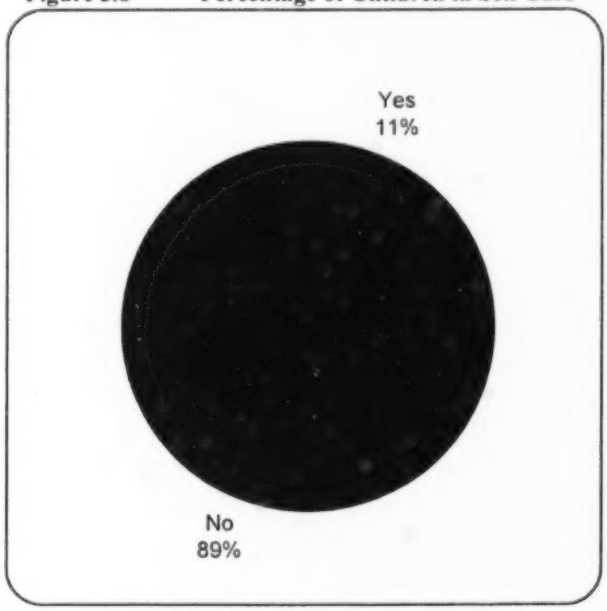
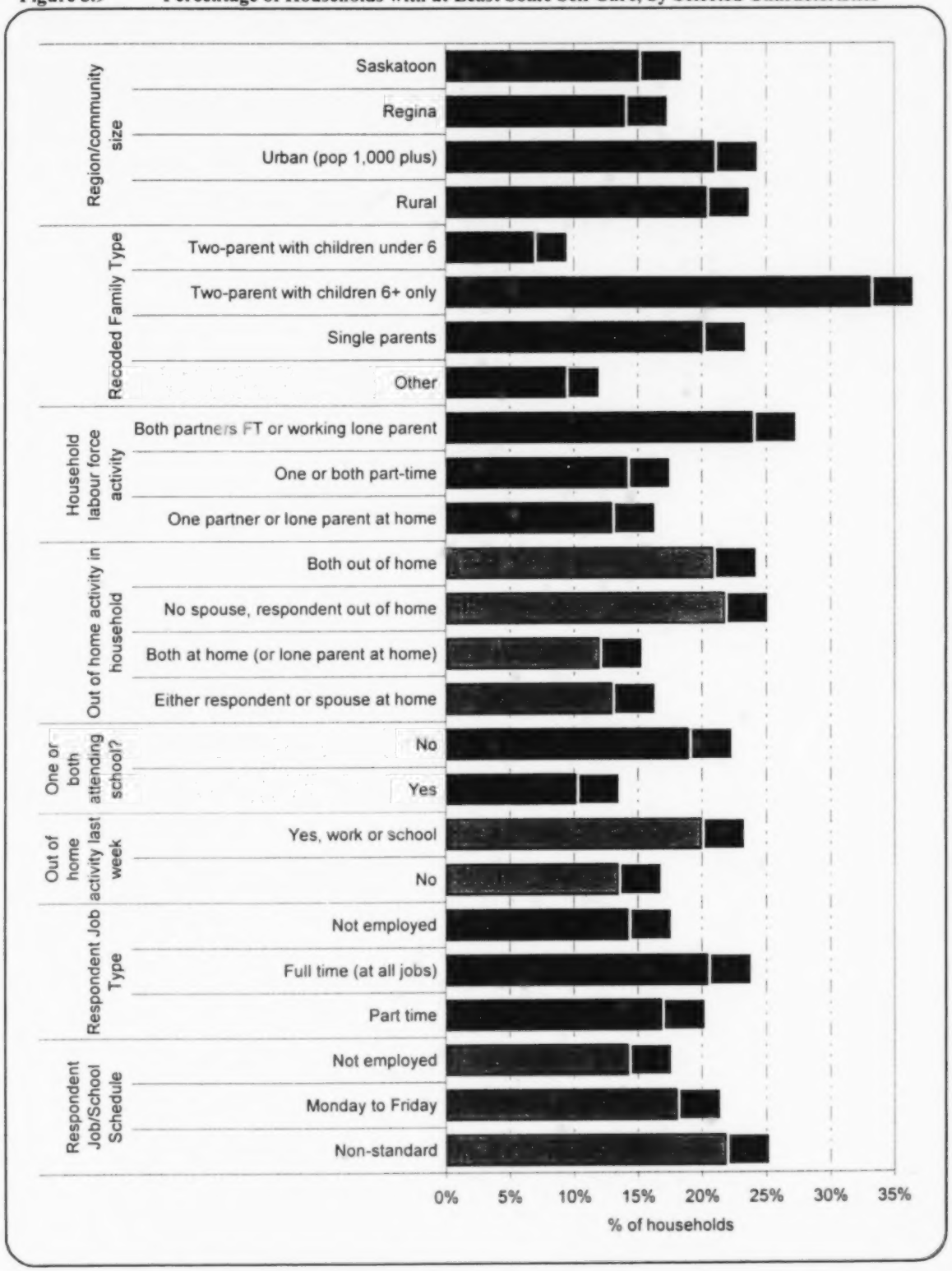


Figure 3.9 Percentage of Households with at Least Some Self Care, by Selected Characteristics



3.6 Informal Care - Care Outside the Home or by Non-Family Members

A sequence of questions about child care began with the screening question "did any of your children spend any time in the care of a relative, a neighbour, a babysitter, or a nanny last week?". Respondents were asked to exclude care in a "provincially licensed day care centre". Subsequent questions determined if this arrangement was:

- in or out of the child's home;
- by a relative or a non-relative; or
- in a licensed family day care home.

Those who indicated that their children were in a licensed family day care home are excluded from the statistics in this section.

Table 3.7 Informal Child Care in or out of the Home

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of informal care	Yes	621	49%	991	43%
	No	652	51%	1,327	57%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Hours in informal care	less than 10	...	...	524	53%
	10 to 19	...	...	174	18%
	20 or more	...	...	285	29%
	Total	...	...	983	100%
	Average hours	27 hours		16 hours	
Activity while child in informal care	At work or school	429	69%	656	66%
	Other	193	31%	340	34%
	Total	621	100%	988	100%
Average weekly cost		$56		$35	

Approximately one half of the households with 43% of the children used some kind of informal care. The average child spends 16 hours of care per week in this kind of an arrangement at an average cost of $35/week. Seven out of ten (69%) respondents indicated that they were at work or school when their child or children were in informal care.

The most common kind of informal care was care outside the home by a non-relative which was used for 16% of the children in 17% of households (see Table 3.8).

In-home care is more likely to be provided by a relative than a non-relative. Among the 16% of children who were cared for in their own home, two thirds were cared for by a relative.

Outside the home, informal care is more evenly distributed among relatives and non-relative. Among the 27% of children who were cared for outside the home, 47% were cared for by a relative and 53% were cared for by a non-relative.

Table 3.8 Types of Informal Child Care Use in the Past Week

		Households*		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Care in own home	by live-in relative	33	3%	48	2%
	by live-in non-relative	7	<1%	8	<1%
	by relative who comes to the home	110	9%	187	8%
	by non-relative who comes to the home	66	5%	124	5%
Care outside of the home	by relative	213	17%	290	13%
	by non-relative	213	17%	329	14%
Any informal care		**621**	**49%**	**991**	**43%**
Any in-home informal care		216	17%	368	16%
Any out-of-home informal care		427	34%	618	26%
Any informal care by relatives		357	28%	525	22%
Any informal care by non-relatives		286	22%	461	20%

* multiple arrangements allows for the sum of the individual arrangements to exceed the total.

Figure 3.10 Types of Informal Child Care, Percentage of Children

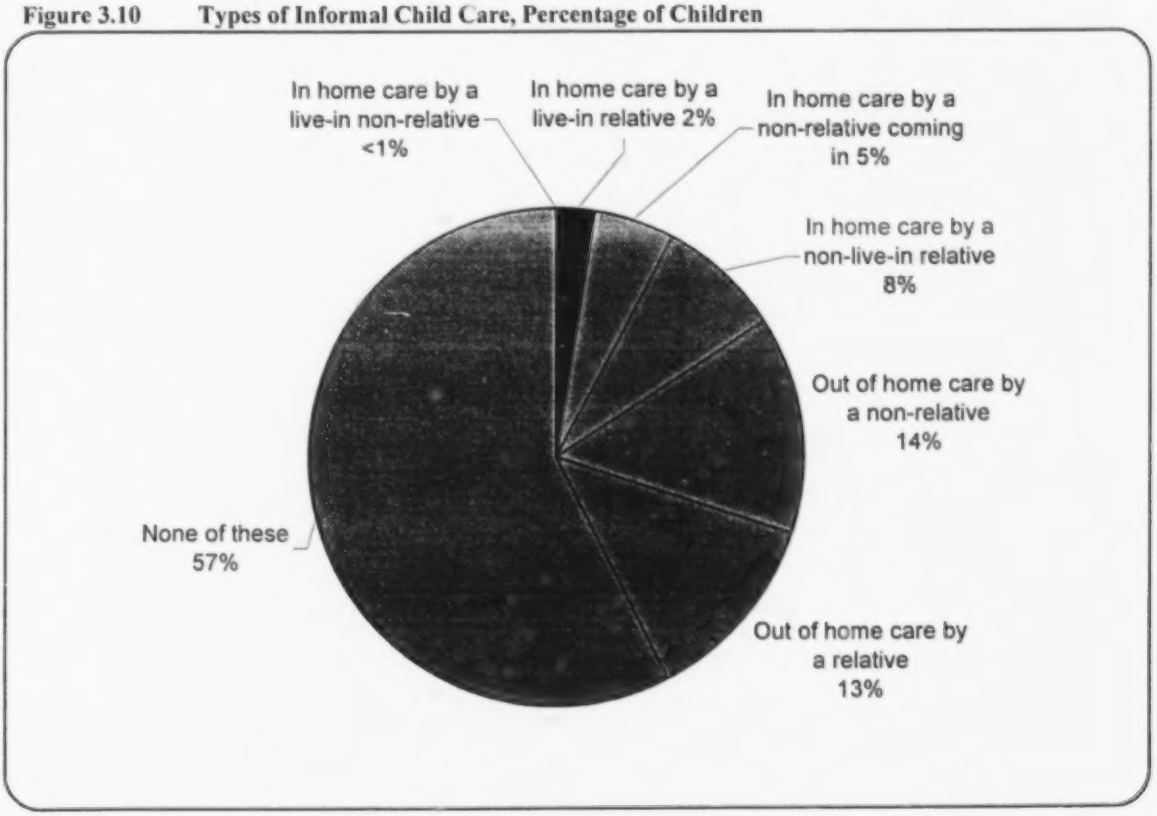

In home care by a live-in non-relative <1%
In home care by a live-in relative 2%
In home care by a non-relative coming in 5%
In home care by a non-live-in relative 8%
Out of home care by a non-relative 14%
Out of home care by a relative 13%
None of these 57%

Table 3.9 Informal Child Care Use in the Past Week, Average Hours and Cost

		Per household per week*		Per child per week	
		Average hours	Average cost	Average hours	Average cost
Care in own home	by live-in relative	77	$51	47	$20
	by live-in non-relative	30	$186	22	$142
	by relative who comes to the home	27	$40	13	$21
	by non-relative who comes to the home	26	$146	14	$75
Care outside of the home	by relative	19	$16	14	$11
	by non-relative	28	$79	18	$51
Any informal care		27	$56	16	$35
Any in-home informal care		35	$77	18	$41
Any out-of-home informal care		23	$47	16	$32
Any informal care by relatives		27	$26	16	$15
Any informal care by non-relatives		27	$95	16	$58

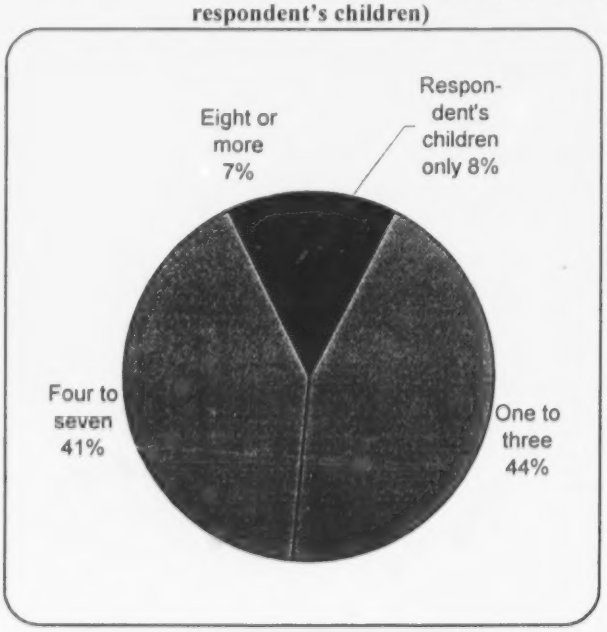
* the household figures pertain to all informal care used in the household, not just the kind in question

The average household pays $56 per week for informal care arrangements totalling 27 hours. The cost is much higher for non-relatives who provide care in the home, especially if the caregiver also lives in the home.

The average child in an informal care arrangement is there for sixteen hours per week although the average is as high as 47 hours if the arrangement is with a live-in caregiver who is not a relative and as low as 13 hours if the arrangement is for out-of-home care by a relative.

If the child care arrangement involved care by a non-relative outside the home, respondents were asked how many children were normally there. Figure 3.11 shows that, in most cases, there are one to three other children in addition to the respondent's. In 7% of the cases, however, there are at least nine children in care and in 48% of the cases there are at least five.

Figure 3.11 Number of Children in Out-of-Home Non-Relative Informal Care (excluding respondent's children)



Demographic Characteristics

Figure 3.12 shows the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of children in two overlapping kinds of care arrangements – those in any kind of out-of-home care, and those in any kind of non-relative care.

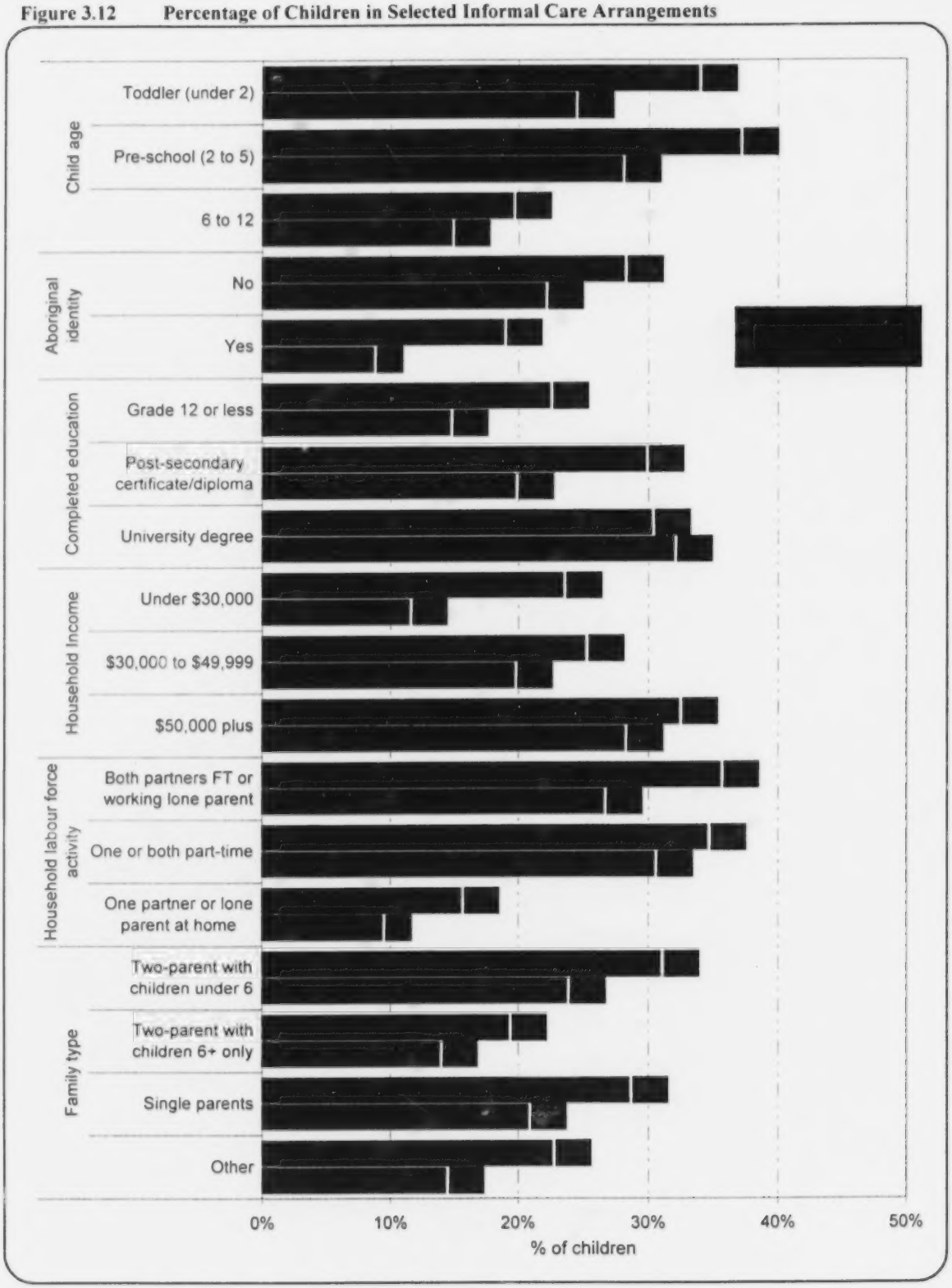
Relative to the overall incidence of 26%, the use of out-of-home care is noticeably higher among children:

- under the age of six, particularly pre-schoolers aged 2 to 5 (37%);
- in non-Aboriginal households (28%);
- in households where the respondent has a higher level of education (30%);
- in higher income households (32%); and
- in households where the parent or parents work (35% to 36%).

Relative to the overall incidence of 20%, the use of non-relative care is noticeably higher among children:

- under the age of six, particularly pre-schoolers aged 2 to 5 (28%);
- in non-Aboriginal households (22%);
- in households where the respondent has a university degree (32%);
- in higher income households (28%); and
- in households where one or both parents work part time (30%).

Figure 3.12 Percentage of Children in Selected Informal Care Arrangements



3.7 School Programs

Respondent's who had children of school age (the range of 5 to 12 was used in the questionnaire) were asked if any of their children "participate in a before or after school program or in a school lunch program".

Overall, one quarter of households representing 19% of children participate in school programs. The percentage increases to 34% of households and 24% of children among those in the relevant age group.

Most school programs are either lunch programs (51%) or after-school programs (31%) and they occur in all grades although the most common are in grade 5 or higher.

Children who participate in a school program spend an average of 7 hours in the programs and the cost averages $6 per week per child. More than one half of the children spend less than five hours per week in a school program.

In the majority of cases (68% of households and 88% of children), the respondent is at work when the child is in the school program.

Table 3.10 School Programs

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of school programs	Yes	312	25%	432	19%
	No	607	48%	1,376	59%
	No children of school age	350	27%	509	22%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Hours in school programs	Less than 2	...	...	74	17%
	2 to 4	...	...	155	36%
	5 or more	...	...	204	47%
	Total	...	...	432	100%
Type of program	Before school	...	...	14	3%
	After school	...	...	136	31%
	Lunch program			222	51%
	Combination	...	...	60	14%
	Total	...	...	432	100%
Grade	Kindergarten or nursery	...	...	38	9%
	Grade 1 to 4	...	...	185	43%
	Grade 5 or higher	...	...	209	48%
	Total	...	...	432	100%
Activity while child in school programs	At work or school	214	68%	379	88%
	Other	98	32%	53	12%
	Total	312	100%	432	100%
Average hours per week		10 hours		7 hours	
Average weekly cost		$8		$6	

With two exceptions, there is relatively little variation in school program use across household types.

Figure 3.14 shows that Aboriginal respondents were much more likely (46% compared with 32%) to have children in school programs. The use of school programs is also somewhat higher among lone parents and among those with lower levels of education. These findings are consistent with the approach of many lunch programs which are targeted at children in neighbourhoods with a high number of Aboriginal people and lone parents.

But households with relatively high incomes per person are more likely than those with lower incomes to use school programs. This is partly a consequence of the fact that households with older children tend to have higher incomes.

Figure 3.13 Participation in School Programs, Percentage of Children

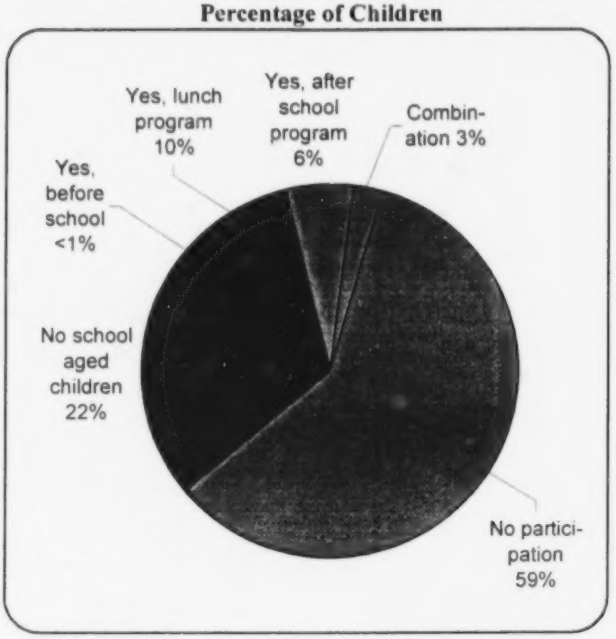
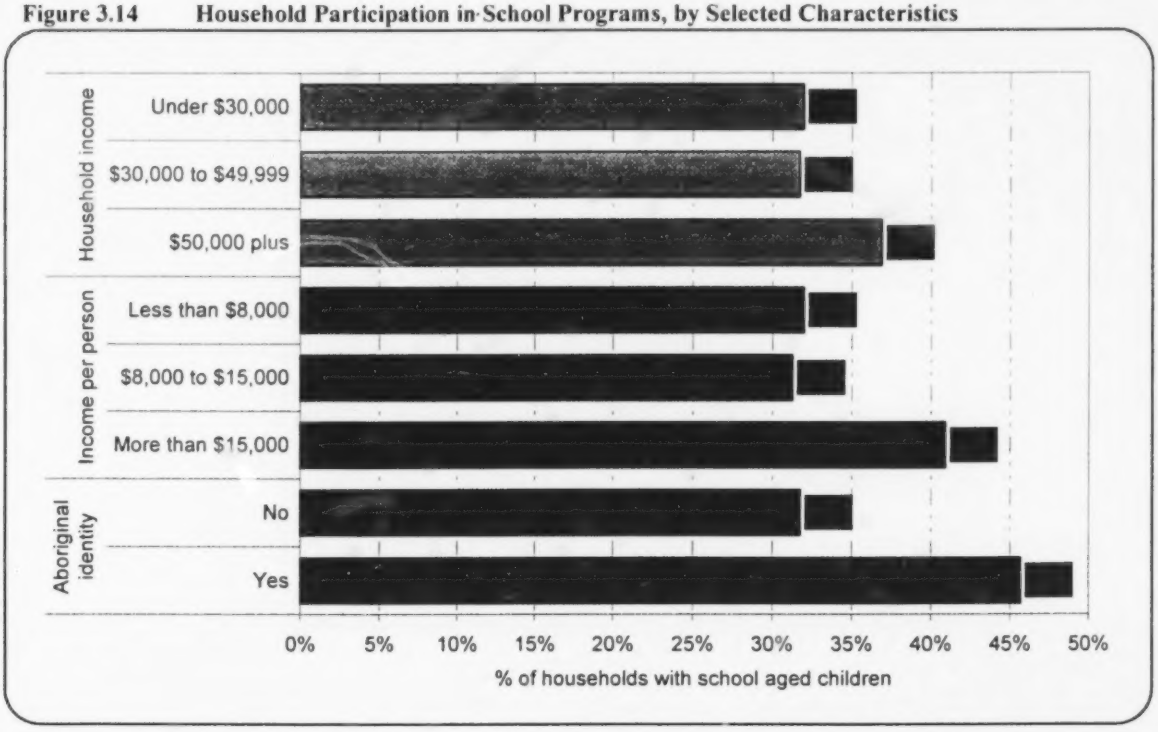


Figure 3.14 Household Participation in School Programs, by Selected Characteristics



3.8 Pre-School Programs

Respondents who had children in the three to five age group were asked if any of their children "spend any time in a pre-school program or a play school".

Overall, 15% of households representing 9% of children participate in pre-school programs. Among households with a child in the relevant age group, 41% of households and 18% of children use a pre-school program so they are relatively popular.

Children who participate in a pre-school program spend an average of 7 hours in the program and the cost averages $18 per child per week.

In the majority of cases (52% of households), the respondent is at work when the child is in the pre-school program.

Pre-school programs are more popular among older respondents and those in higher income categories (see Figure 3.16). They are also more popular in Regina and small urban areas than they are in Saskatoon or in rural areas.

Table 3.11 Pre-School Programs

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of pre-school programs	Yes	195	15%	200	9%
	No	284	22%	886	38%
	no children in age group	793	62%	1,231	53%
	Total	1,273	100%	2,317	100%
Hours in pre-school programs	less than 5	...	...	102	51%
	5 to 9	...	...	52	26%
	10 or more	...	...	46	23%
	Total	...	...	200	100%
	Average hours	7 hours		7 hours	
Activity while child in program	At work or school	102	52%	106	53%
	Other	93	48%	95	47%
	Total	195	100%	200	100%
Average weekly cost		$18		$18	

Figure 3.15 Percentage of Children Three to Five Years of Age Participating in Pre-School Programs

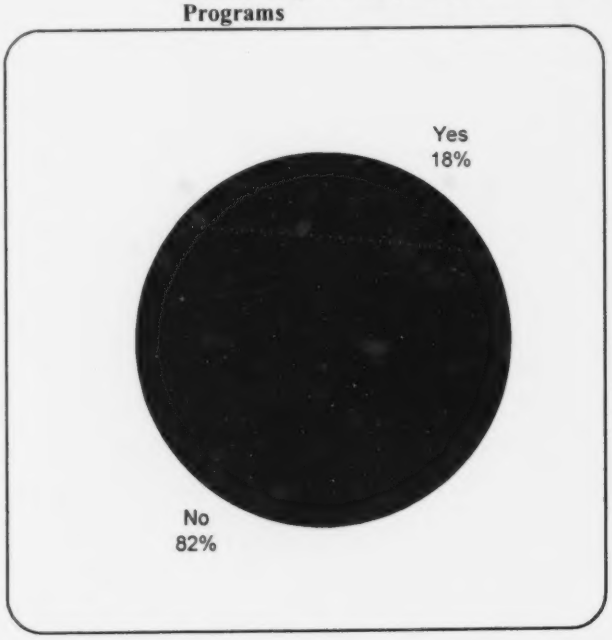
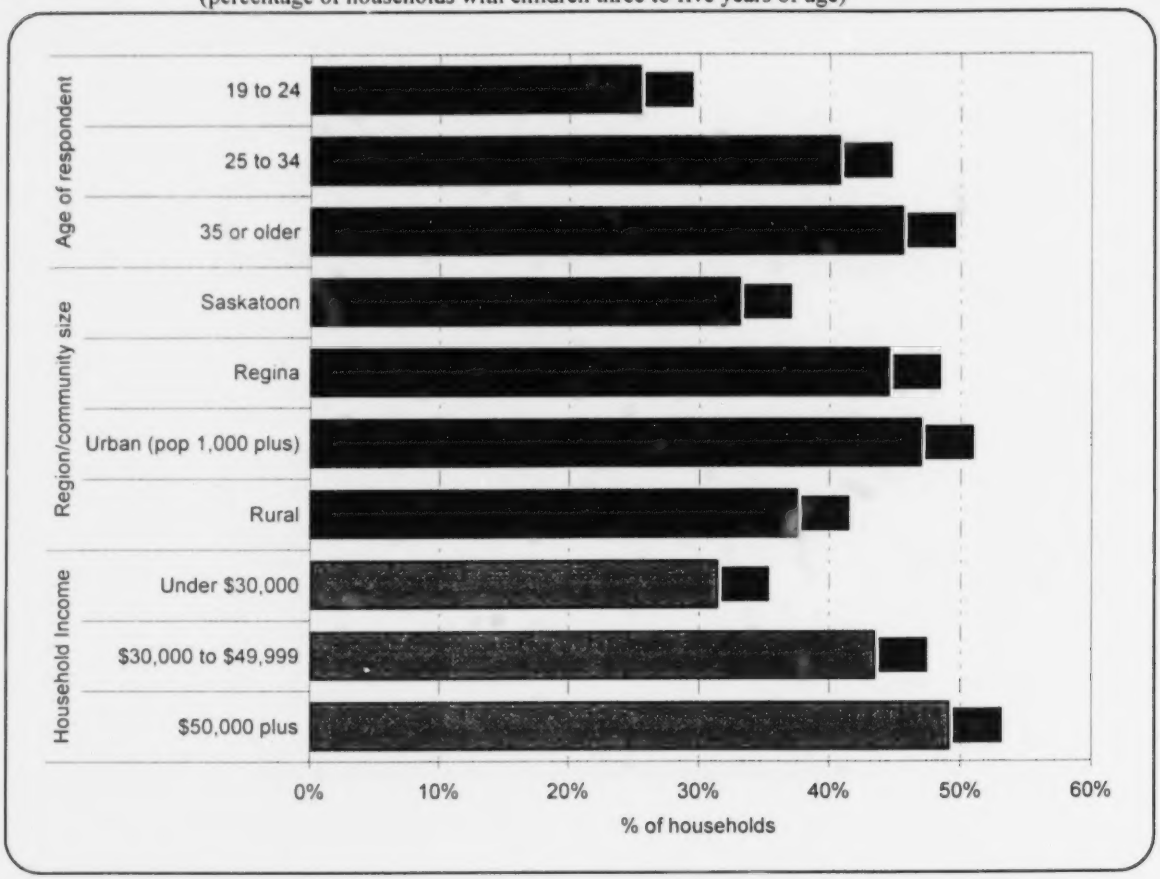


Figure 3.16 **Household Participation Rate for Pre-School Programs, by Selected Characteristics**
(percentage of households with children three to five years of age)



3.9 Licensed Care

As noted in Section 3.6, respondents were asked if any of their children were using licensed family day care homes in the sequence of questions about general out-of-home care. Relatively few respondents use licensed family day care homes – 44 children or 2% of the total in 37 households – so the survey cannot reliably describe many of their characteristics.

On average, these children spent 18 hours per week in a licensed family day care home at a cost of $118 per week. In 84% of the cases, the respondent was at work when their children were in this kind of care.

Respondents were specifically asked about licensed day care centres in a separate set of questions. The use of licensed day care centres is higher than licensed family day care homes – 9% of households representing 6% of children used a licensed day care centre in the week prior to the survey.

Most centres were in the respondent's neighbourhood (50%) and most were classified as either "private" or "non-profit" by respondents. On average, each child spends 24 hours per week in the centre at an average cost of $73 per week. At the household level, the average is 30 hours per week at a cost of $92 per week.

Table 3.12 Licensed Day Care Centres

		Households		Children	
		Count	%	Count	%
Any use of day care centres	Yes	109	9%	140	6%
	No	1,156	91%	2,163	94%
	Total	1,265	100%	2,303	100%
Location of centre	At workplace	...	...	15	11%
	At a school	...	...	22	15%
	In the neighbourhood			70	50%
	Other	...	...	34	24%
	Total	...	...	140	100%
Operator of centre	Workplace or school	...	...	22	17%
	Non-profit	...	...	38	29%
	Private	...	...	58	44%
	Other			14	11%
	Total	...	...	132	100%
Hours of care	Less than 10	...	...	22	15%
	10 to 19	...	...	35	25%
	20 or more			84	60%
	Total	...	...	140	100%
Activity while child in centre	At work or school	102	94%	132	94%
	Other	7	6%	8	6%
	Total	109	100%	140	100%
Average hours per week		30 hours		24 hours	
Average weekly cost		$92		$73	

Respondents reporting the use of licensed day care centres differ markedly from those who do not. The statistically significant differences are summarized below.

Younger respondents are much more likely to be day care centre users than older ones – household use is 22% among those 19 to 24 years of age compared with 7% among those 35 and older.

Respondents from Regina and Saskatoon are more likely to use day care centres (14% and 12% respectively) than those in other urban centres (7%) or rural areas (5%).

Figure 3.18 shows that use is slightly higher among Aboriginal respondents, and single parent families.

The relationship with income is more complex. Measured on a per-person basis, use is higher among those in the lowest and highest income categories (12% and 10% respectively) and lower in the middle income category. This is a natural consequence of the fact that licensed day care centres are generally affordable only for households with relatively high incomes or with incomes low enough to qualify for a subsidy.

Figure 3.17 Percentage of Children in Licensed Day Care Centres

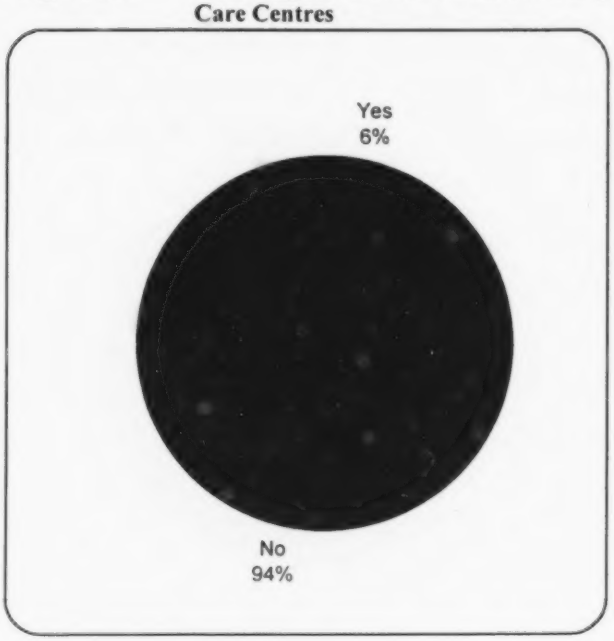
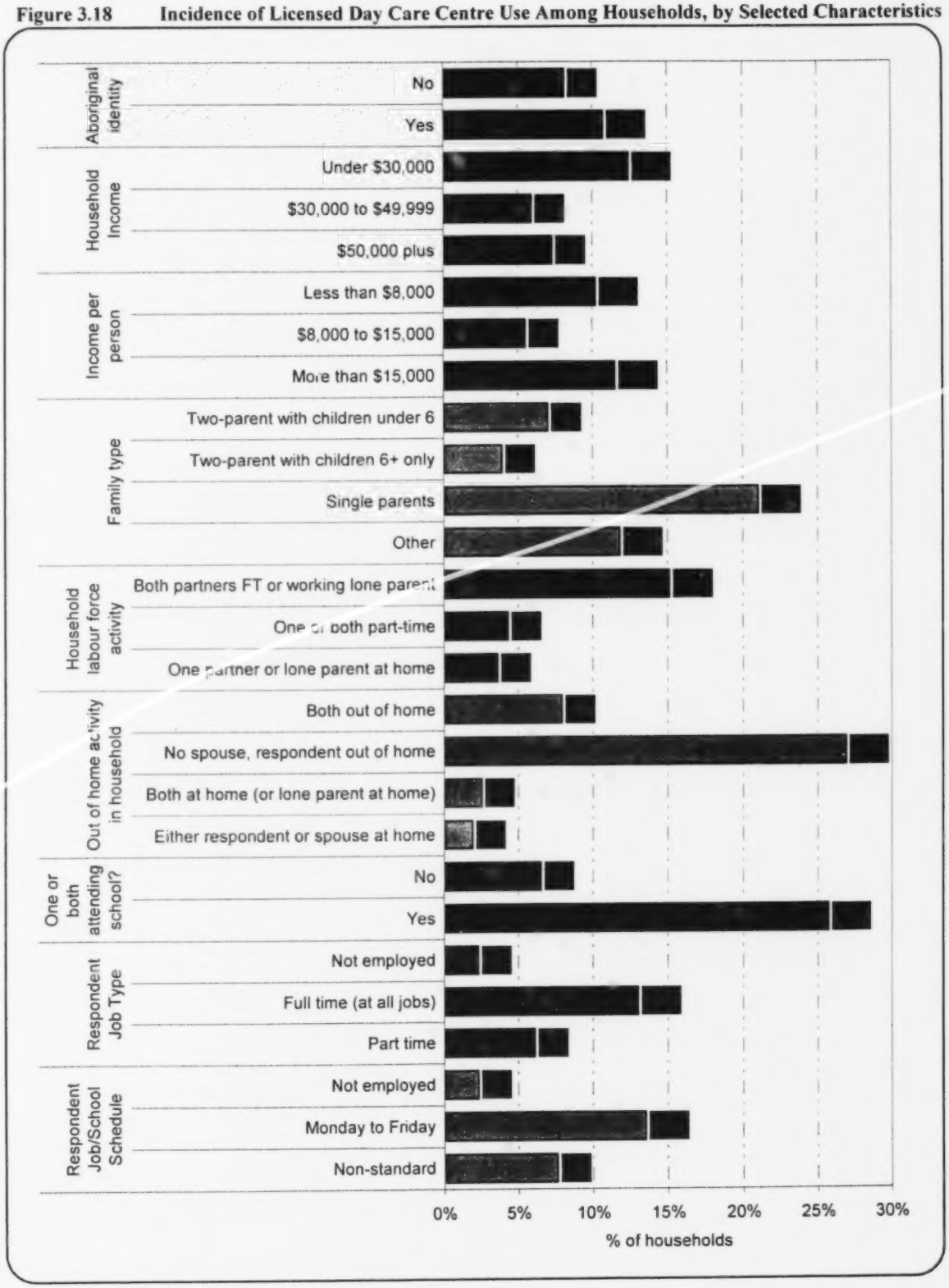


Figure 3.18 also shows that centre use is concentrated among those who are going to school (rather than in the labour force) and those households which are headed either by a working lone parent or in which both partners are regularly out the home. In particular, use is highest among those who are working full-time on a regular schedule.

Figure 3.18 Incidence of Licensed Day Care Centre Use Among Households, by Selected Characteristics



3.10 Summary

In this section, two summary measures at the household level and three measures at the individual child level are presented. In addition, the hours of care are used to determine the "main" arrangement both at the household level and at the child level.

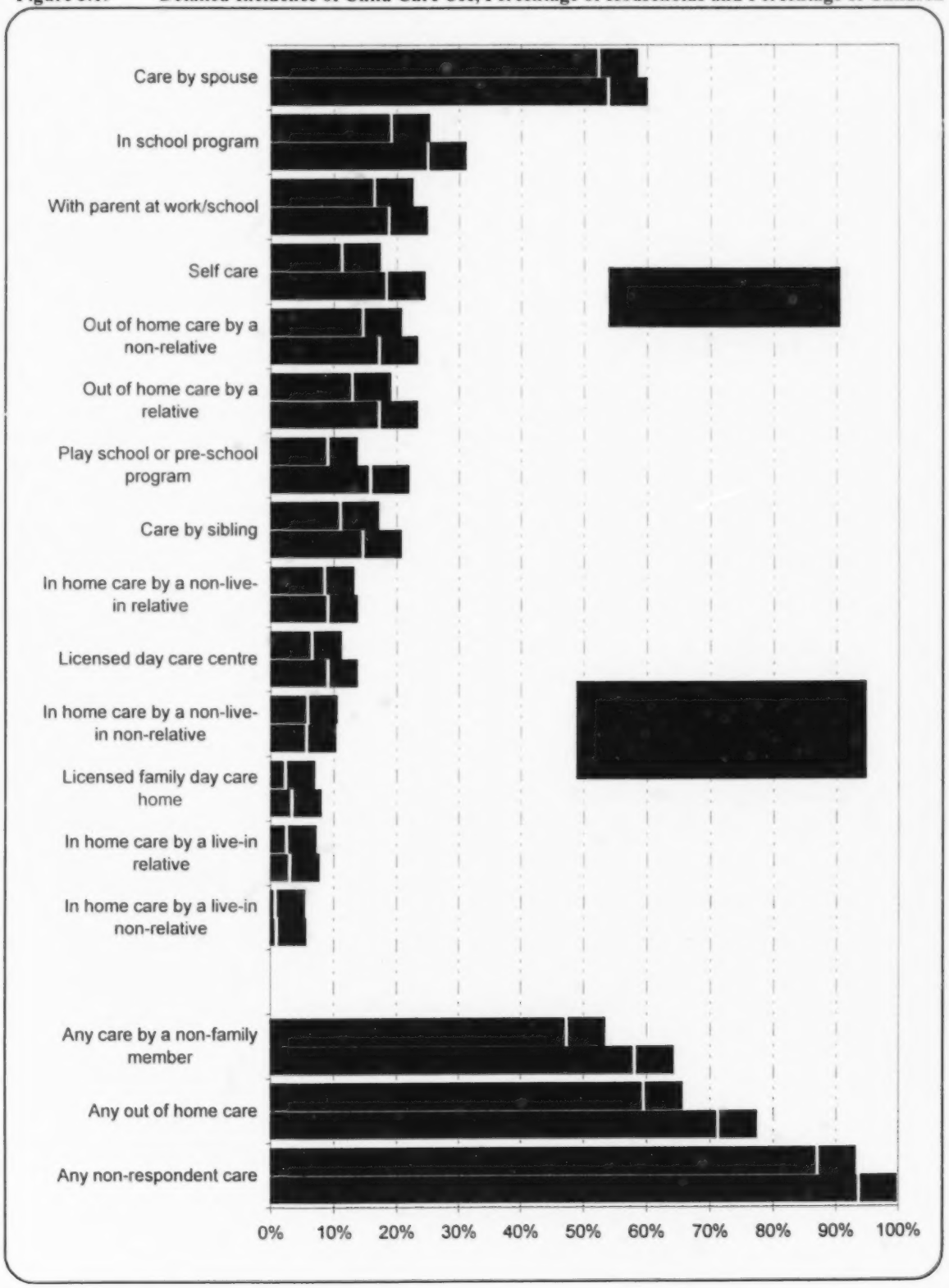
Incidence

The first measure is a simple incidence measure – what percentage of households use that kind of child care, regardless of whether it is applicable to children in their household. The same measure can be applied to the children in the household. Figure 3.19 shows the results.

Almost all households in the survey used some form of child care by a person other than the respondent; 93% of households used non-respondent care and 87% of children spent at least some time in a child care arrangement. Restricted to non-family care (with relatives considered as family), 58% of households and 47% of children were cared for at least some of the time by a non-family member. Looked at another way, seven out of ten households and six out of ten children spent at least some of the time in a child care arrangement outside the home.

The most common single kind of arrangement other than care by a spouse is a school program – used by one quarter of households and 19% of children. The various forms of informal care, if considered as a single kind of arrangement, are also very common although each particular type is relatively uncommon.

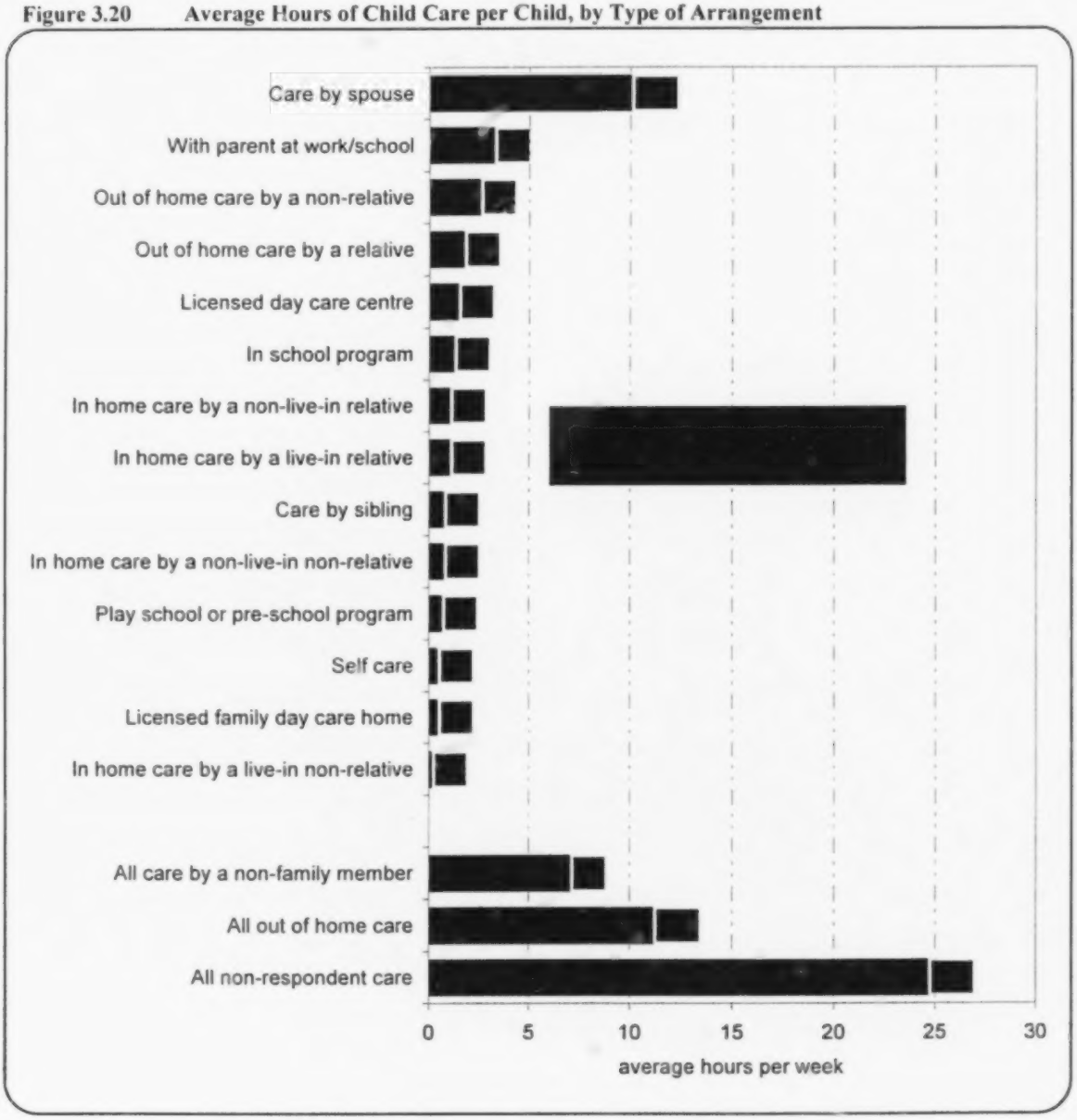
Figure 3.19 Detailed Incidence of Child Care Use, Percentage of Households and Percentage of Children



Hours of Care

Another way to examine the prevalence of child care arrangements is to look at the total hours that a child spends in each kind of care arrangement. Figure 3.20 shows the hours, averaged over all children, in each kind of care. The average child spends 25 hours per week in non-respondent care of which 10 hours is in the care of a spouse. Of the remaining 15 hours, 11.1 hours are out of the home; 7.0 hours are in the care of a non-family member. Average hours tend to be longer for in-home arrangements, especially if we remember that most care at the respondent's place of work is among those who work at home.

Figure 3.20 Average Hours of Child Care per Child, by Type of Arrangement



Cost

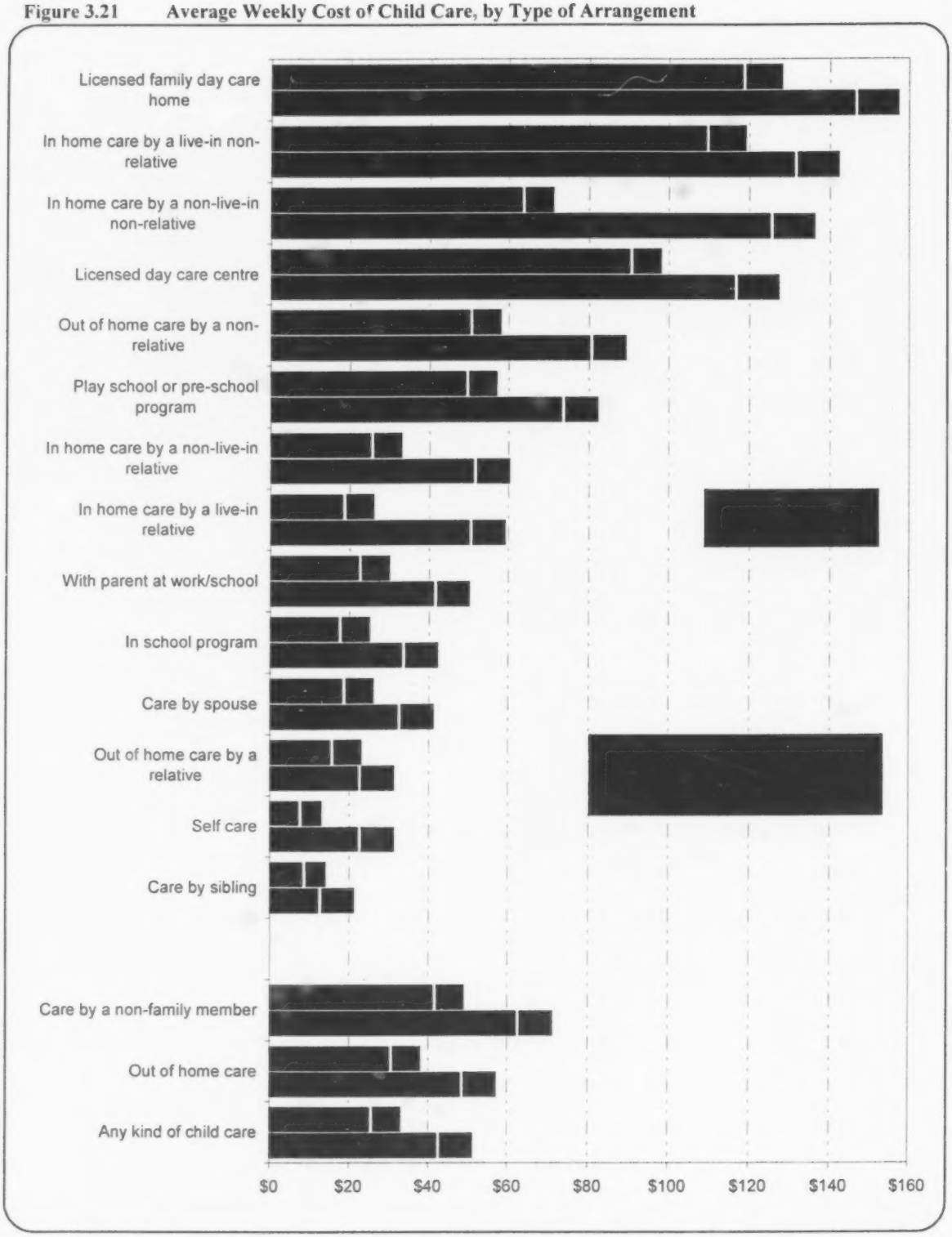
A third measure of child care prevalence is the total cost. This can be summed over the entire household or at the level of the individual child (see Table 3.13). Note that those who spend no money on child care are included in these averages.

Households in the survey spent an average of $42 per week (approximately $2,000 per year) on child care. The average per child was $26 per week although it is much higher among children who spend time in family day care homes ($118) or who have a live-in care provider who is not a relative ($109).

Table 3.13 Weekly Cost of Child Care

	Per household		Per child	
	Count	%	Count	%
No cost	730	57%	1,510	65%
Less than $20 per week	136	11%	262	11%
$20 to $49 per week	101	8%	174	8%
$50 to $199 per week	254	20%	328	14%
$200 or more per week	52	4%	44	2%
Total	1,273	100%	2,318	100%
Average	$42		$25	

Figure 3.21 Average Weekly Cost of Child Care, by Type of Arrangement

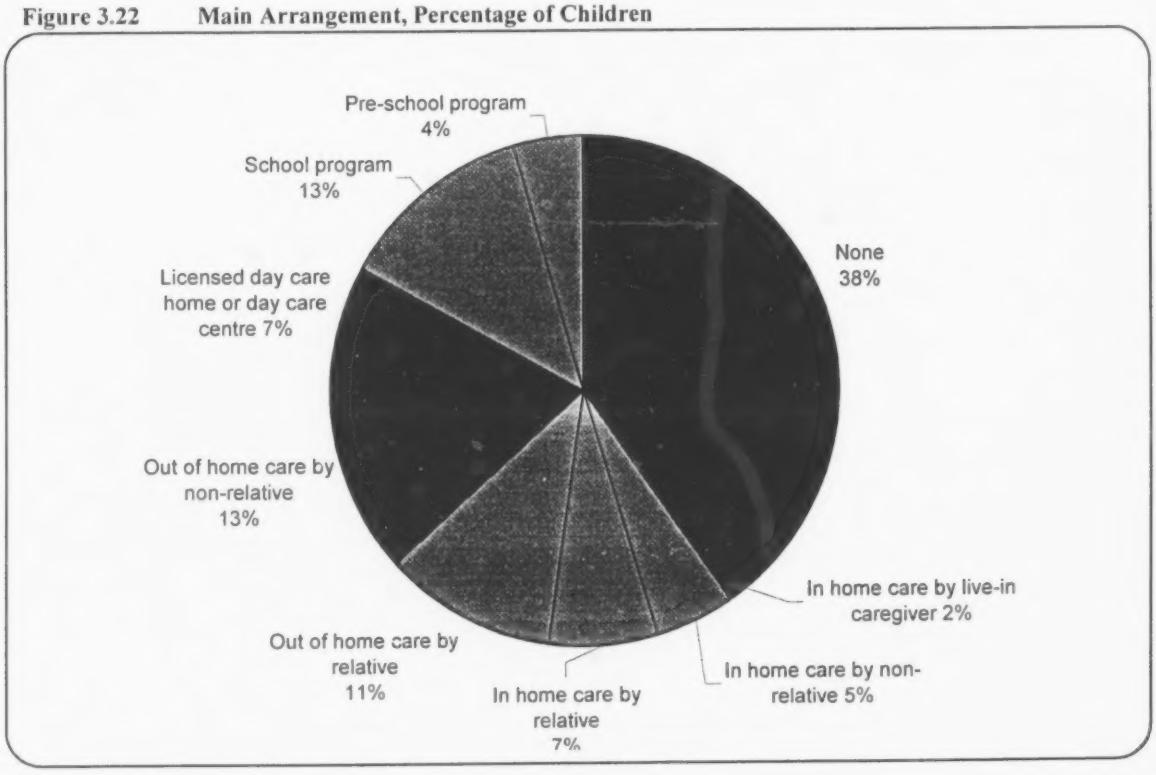


Main Arrangement

By looking at the hours of care for each child and each child in the household, one can derive what can be considered as the "main" child care arrangement for survey respondents. Care by the immediate family members – the spouse or an older brother/sister – were excluded from this calculation as was self-care and care by the respondent or the spouse while at work because respondents would not normally consider this as their main arrangement if they use out-of-home or non-family care arrangements. This allows for the possibility that there will be no "main arrangement" if the child does not spend any time in the care of persons outside the immediate family.

The distribution of "main" arrangements among children has to be considered separately from the "main" arrangement among households[7]. Among children (see Figure 3.22), 62% of children have a main arrangement – the remaining 38% spend time in the care of immediate family members. The main arrangement is typically informal care outside the home by a relative (11%) or a non-relative (13%). In-home care, usually by a relative, accounts for 14% of main arrangements. The main arrangement is a licensed day care centre or family day care home for 7% of children.

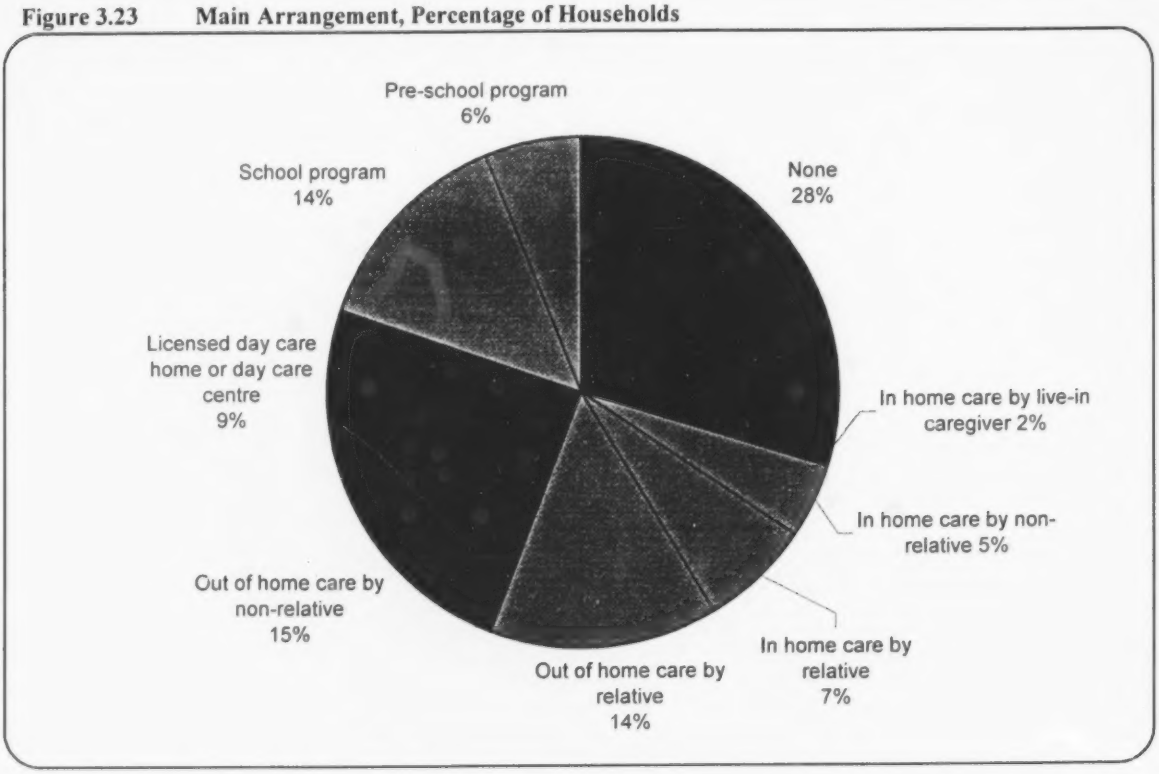
Figure 3.22 Main Arrangement, Percentage of Children


Pre-school program 4%
School program 13%
Licensed day care home or day care centre 7%
Out of home care by non-relative 13%
Out of home care by relative 11%
In home care by relative 7%
In home care by non-relative 5%
In home care by live-in caregiver 2%
None 38%

7 Consider a hypothetical example with two children in a household. One school-aged child spends 5 hours per week in an after-school arrangement and a younger child spends 18 hours per week in an informal arrangement outside the home and 5 hours in a pre-school program. From the perspective of both the household and the younger child, the main arrangement is the informal arrangement outside the home. From the older child's perspective, the main arrangement is the after-school program.

From the household perspective, the main arrangement is more likely to be an arrangement where there is more than one child – informal out-of-home care for example (see Figure 3.23). Overall, 72% of households have a main arrangement; in the remaining 28% all children are cared for by immediate family members.

Figure 3.23 Main Arrangement, Percentage of Households



4.0 What Parents Want: Preferred Child Care Arrangements

With a view to determining if parents are satisfied with their current child care arrangements, respondents were asked what kind of child care arrangements they would prefer.

This theme was approached from two different perspectives:

from a practical view given their current work schedule and income, and

from a broader perspective about what would be best for the children.

4.1 Preferred Type of Care Among Working Parents

Respondents who were regularly out of the home were asked: "Given your current work schedule and your present income, which type of arrangement would you most prefer for your [child / children] while you are working?". (The wording was changed slightly for those going to school or both working and going to school.) The question was asked only of the seven out of every ten respondents who were regularly out of the home.

Although respondents were given the option of stating different preferences for each of their children, the vast majority (95%) chose the same arrangement for all of their children. For simplicity, the statistics in this section refer to a single preferred arrangement:

i) the single preferred arrangement for those with only one child and for those who did not differentiate between their children, and

ii) the preferred arrangement for the youngest child among the relatively few (5%) who had different preferences for different children.

Table 4.1 shows that respondents who were working or going to school strongly prefer in-home care generally, and care by a family member specifically. Three out of ten (30%) would prefer care at home by their spouse and six out of ten (62%) would generally prefer some kind of in-home care.

Table 4.1 Preferred Method of Care Among Respondents Working or Going to School

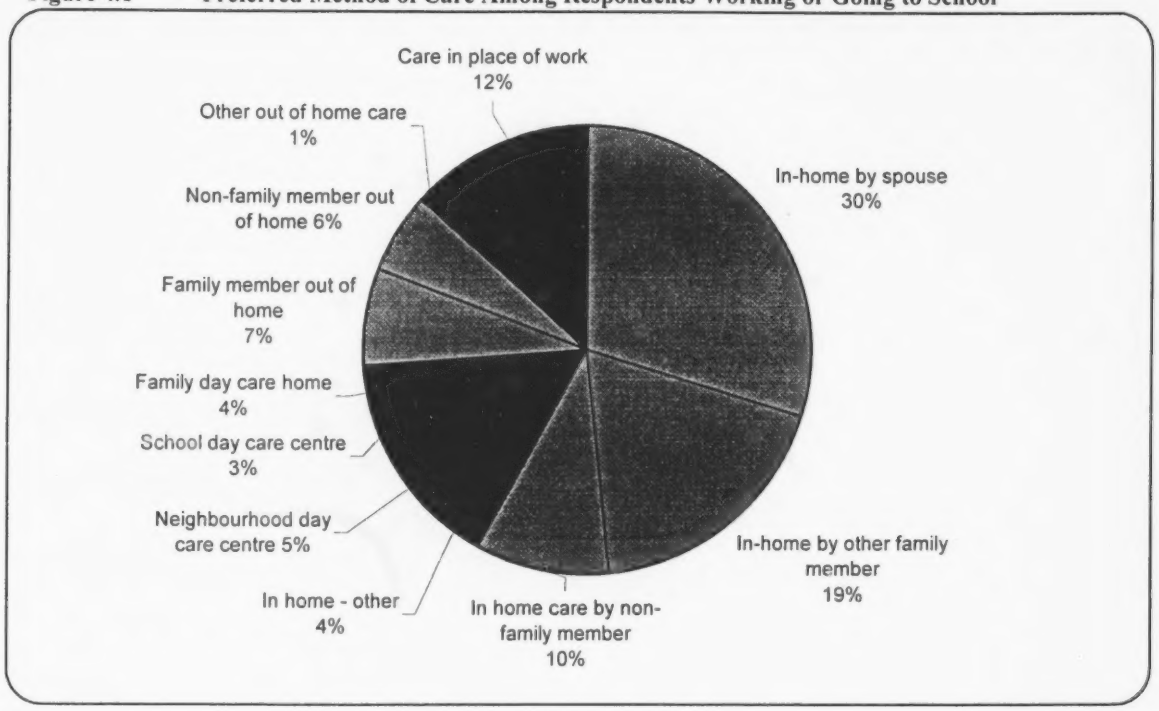
	Age of youngest child*						Total	
	Infants or toddlers (under 2)		Pre-school (2 to 5)		6 to 12			
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
In-home by spouse	50	36%	79	26%	127	30%	256	30%
In-home by other family member	21	15%	32	11%	107	26%	160	19%
In home care by non-family member	12	9%	26	9%	45	11%	83	10%
Other in-home arrangement	5	4%	11	4%	18	4%	34	4%
Subtotal: In-home arrangements	**88**	**63%**	**148**	**49%**	**297**	**71%**	**533**	**62%**
Neighbourhood day care centre	4	3%	26	9%	15	4%	45	5%
School day care centre	1	<1%	8	3%	14	4%	23	3%
Family day care home	5	3%	16	5%	14	3%	34	4%
Family member out of home	3	2%	31	10%	26	6%	60	7%
Non-family member out of home	12	9%	19	6%	20	5%	51	6%
Other out of home care	0	0%	4	1%	8	2%	12	1%
Care in place of work	27	19%	49	16%	25	6%	101	12%
Subtotal: Out-of-home arrangements	**52**	**37%**	**153**	**51%**	**122**	**29%**	**326**	**38%**
Total	**140**	**100%**	**301**	**100%**	**419**	**100%**	**859**	**100%**

* although respondents were referring to their youngest child, 95% of those with two or more children would prefer the same arrangement for all of their children

The percentage who would prefer in-home care by a spouse or other family member is lowest when referring to pre-schoolers (37%) and highest when referring to those of school age (56%).

Care in the place of work or care by a family member outside the home are the second and third choices overall. However, care by a non-family member is considered as the preferred model for 18% of those referring to infants/toddlers.

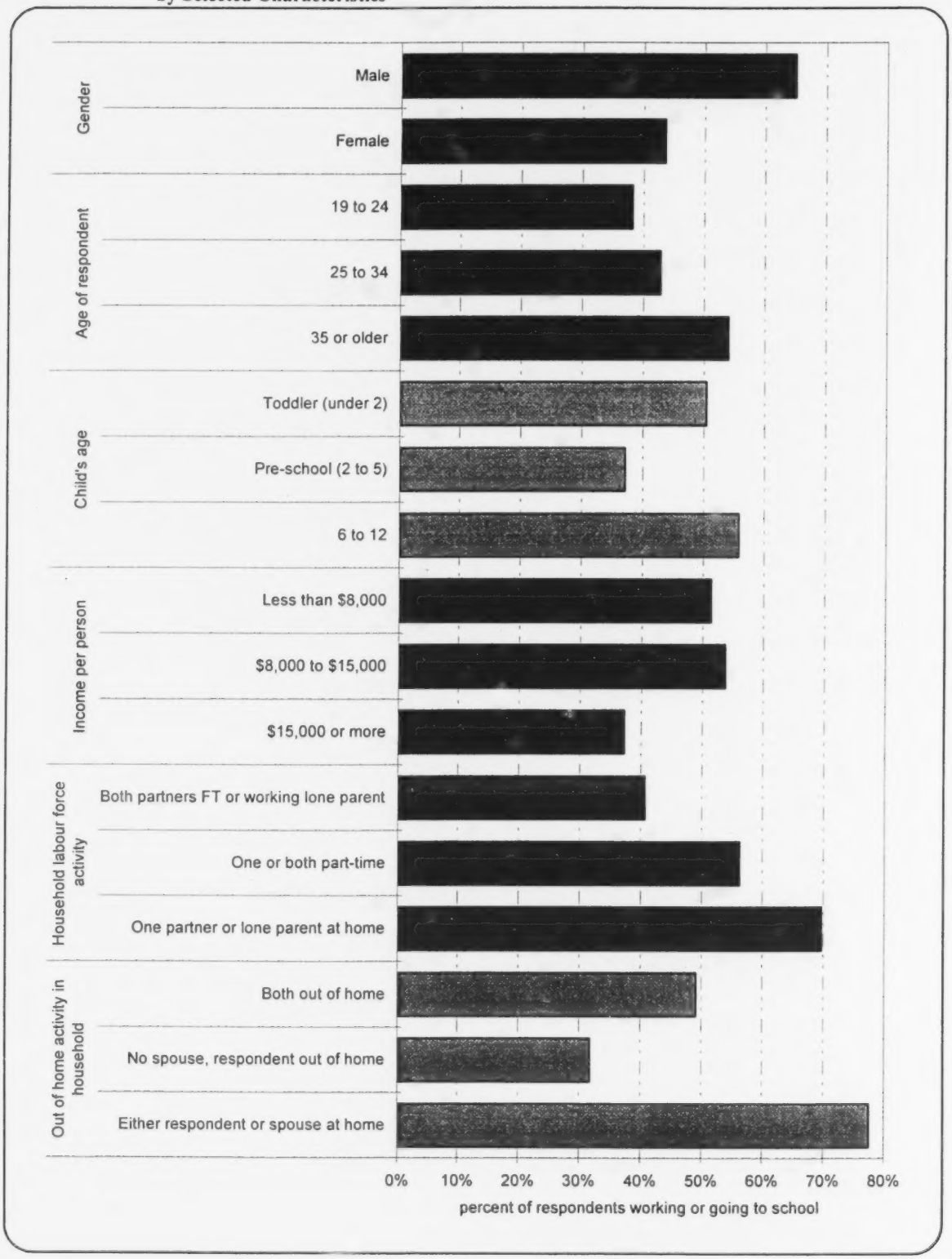
Figure 4.1 Preferred Method of Care Among Respondents Working or Going to School


Care in place of work 12%
Other out of home care 1%
Non-family member out of home 6%
Family member out of home 7%
Family day care home 4%
School day care centre 3%
Neighbourhood day care centre 5%
In home - other 4%
In home care by non-family member 10%
In-home by other family member 19%
In-home by spouse 30%

The percentage of respondents who prefer in-home care by a spouse or other family member by a number of socio-economic characteristics although the differences are small. For example, Figure 4.2 shows that the proportion is higher than average among:

men;
those in older age groups;
those with lower education levels;
those in households with lower incomes per person; and
households in which one spouse is at home

Figure 4.2 **Percentage of Respondents who Prefer In-Home Care by a Spouse or Other Family Member, by Selected Characteristics**



Are parents using their preferred arrangement? The answer is not easy to determine but superficially, the responses seem to suggest they are not. For example, care by a spouse at home is the preferred arrangement for 30% of respondents but it is the main arrangement for less than one half of them (see Figure 4.3). Only one in ten of those who prefer care at home by a family member have that particular arrangement.

While the percentage who are using their preferred arrangement is relatively low, parents may be viewing the situation differently. When asked if and why they are not using their preferred arrangement, only 39% indicated that they were not using their preferred arrangement suggesting that 61% are satisfied with their current arrangements.

Compared with those who prefer in-home care by a family member, a higher proportion who prefer out-of-home care have such an arrangement. Almost one half who prefer a day care centre are using one and more than one half who prefer informal out-of-home care have that kind of an arrangement as their main one.

Figure 4.3 Preferred Arrangement Compared with Main Arrangement

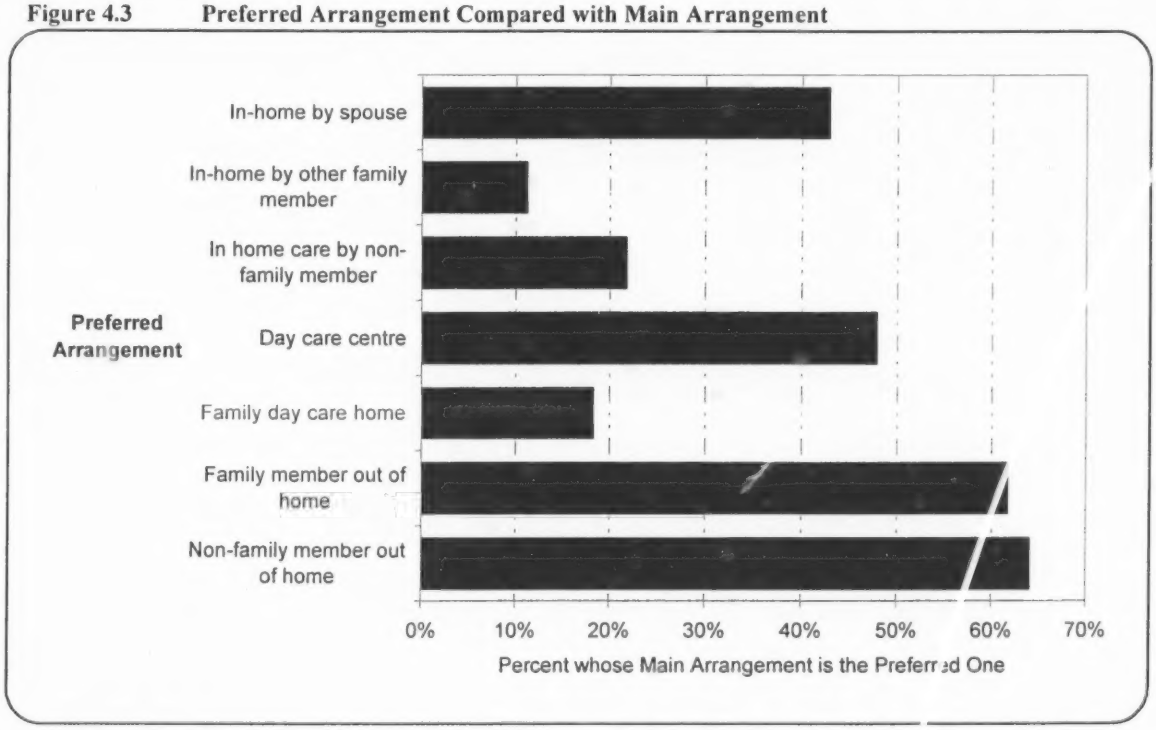


Table 4.2 shows the reasons given for not using the preferred arrangement. The most common reason by far was availability, mentioned by 60% of those not using their preferred arrangement. In the broader context, almost one quarter (23%) of respondents regularly outside of the home are not using their preferred arrangement because it is not available.

Cost was the second most common reason (9%) of respondents followed by a work/school schedule (5%).

Table 4.2 Barriers to Preferred Child Care Arrangements (among those not using their preferred method)

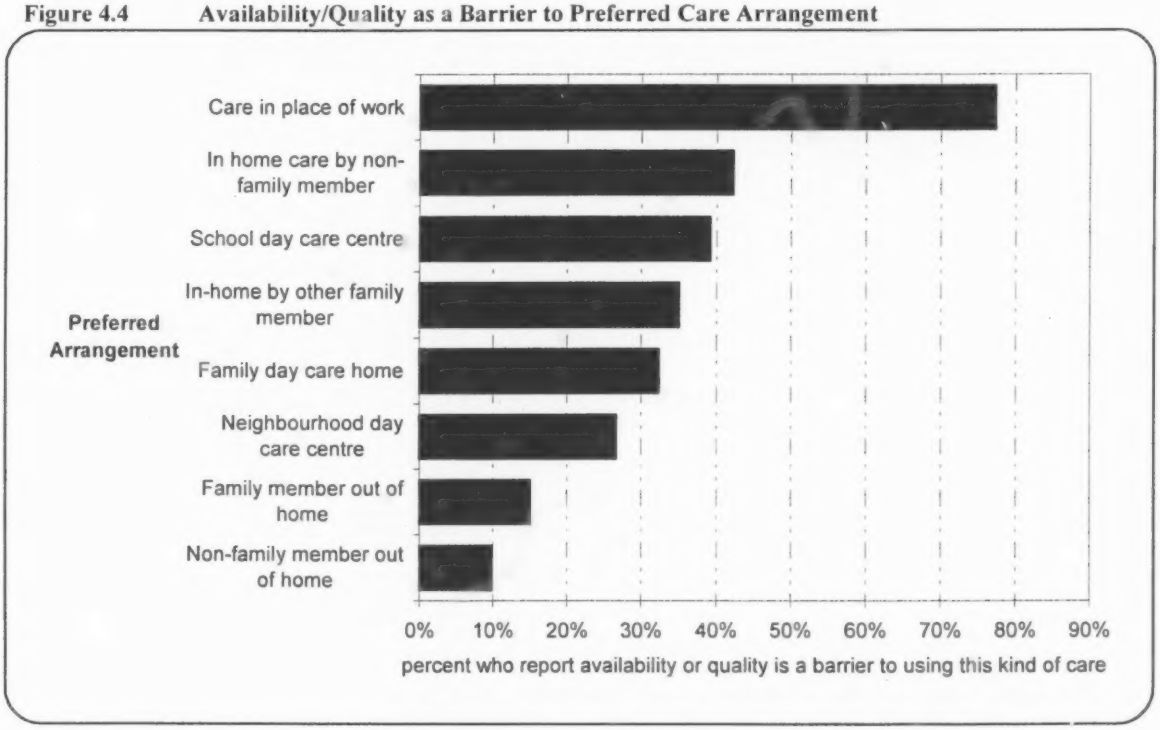
	Count	Percent of reasons*	Percent of respondents
Option not available	200	60%	23%
Poor quality available	29	9%	3%
Cost	74	22%	9%
Work schedule	43	13%	5%
Other reasons	11	3%	1%
Total	333	100%	39%

* total is more than 100% because of multiple responses.

Availability varies widely by type of preferred arrangement as Figure 4.4 shows. Three quarters of the 12% of respondents who would prefer a workplace care arrangement are prevented from doing so because of availability. School day care centres and neighbourhood day care centres are also not as available as respondents would wish – availability is in issue for 39% and 27% of respondents respectively.

In summary, respondents are strongly in favour of at home care by a family member but many are not able to have that arrangement. Among those who would prefer a different arrangement, availability is the main barrier.

Figure 4.4 Availability/Quality as a Barrier to Preferred Care Arrangement



4.2 Best Kind of Care for Children

A second series of questions was asked of all respondents, including those who were not regularly out of the home. This question had a stronger focus on the welfare of the children and was divided across three age groups. Respondents were asked "What kind of care do you think is best for the infants or toddlers of working parents?" with a slight change of wording for pre-schoolers and those of school age.

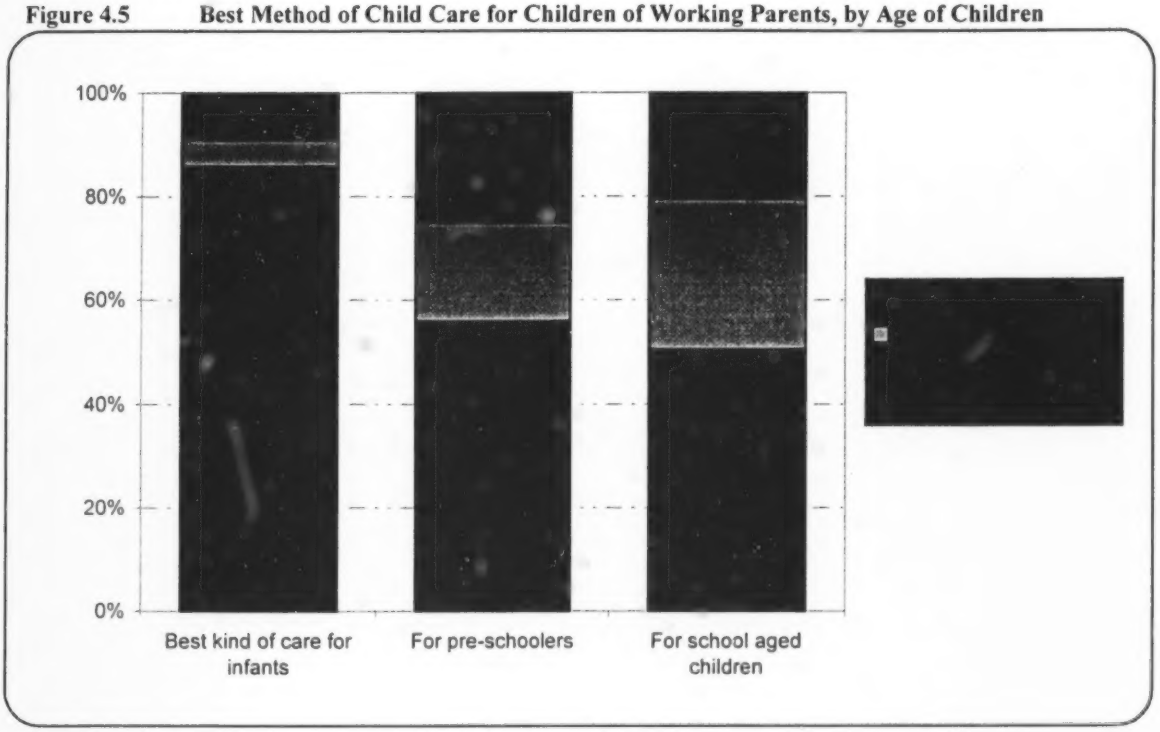
Almost all respondents (86%) feel that the best kind of care for infants or toddlers is care in the home, either by a parent (69%), another family member (13%) or someone else (4%).

For pre-schoolers and school-aged children, a majority still feel that care at home by a family member is best for the child but there is a higher proportion who favour day care centres (particularly for school-aged children), family day care homes, and family members outside the home. Figure 4.5 demonstrates this lower tendency for respondents to prefer spousal care for older children.

Table 4.3 Best Method of Care for Children of Parents Working or Going to School

	Infants or toddlers		Pre-schoolers		School-aged	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
In-home by parent	808	69%	522	45%	431	37%
In-home by other family member	151	13%	90	8%	110	10%
In home care by non-family member	40	3%	37	3%	38	3%
Other In home care	14	1%	7	1%	5	0%
Subtotal: In-home care	**1,013**	**86%**	**656**	**56%**	**584**	**51%**
Neighbourhood day care centre	52	4%	157	13%	125	11%
School day care centre	7	1%	64	6%	209	18%
Family day care home (licensed)	52	4%	101	9%	123	11%
Family member out of home	38	3%	104	9%	96	8%
Other out of home care	7	1%	85	7%	20	2%
Care in place of work	9	1%	6	1%	1	0%
Subtotal: Out-of-home care	**166**	**14%**	**516**	**44%**	**572**	**49%**
Total	**1,179**	**100%**	**1,172**	**100%**	**1,156**	**100%**

Figure 4.5 Best Method of Child Care for Children of Working Parents, by Age of Children



There is clearly a strong preference for the in-home care of infants or toddlers but parents are more willing to look at alternatives for pre-schoolers and school-aged children. Figures 4.6 and 4.7 examine the percentage of respondents who feel that in-home care by a parent is the best kind of care for pre-schoolers according to demographic and labour market characteristics. The pattern of responses were similar when respondents were thinking of school-aged children (Figures 4.8 and 4.9).

Just under one half of respondents (45%) prefer spousal care for pre-school aged children. The proportion is somewhat higher among:

men (52%);
those 35 years or older (52%);
non-Aboriginal respondents (47%);
those in rural areas (55%); and
those in higher income groups (47% to 48%).

Those in two parent families are more likely than lone parents to think spousal care is the best for pre-schoolers. This difference is also evident when respondents were thinking about the best kind of care for school aged children.

The preference for spousal care is also noticeable higher among households where one parent is regularly at home, and conversely, when both are out of the home. This kind of care is seen as less desirable among households where both parents are at home or where a lone parent is at home.

Figure 4.6 **Respondents who Feel Spousal Care is the Best Kind of Care for Pre-Schoolers, by Selected Demographic Characteristics**

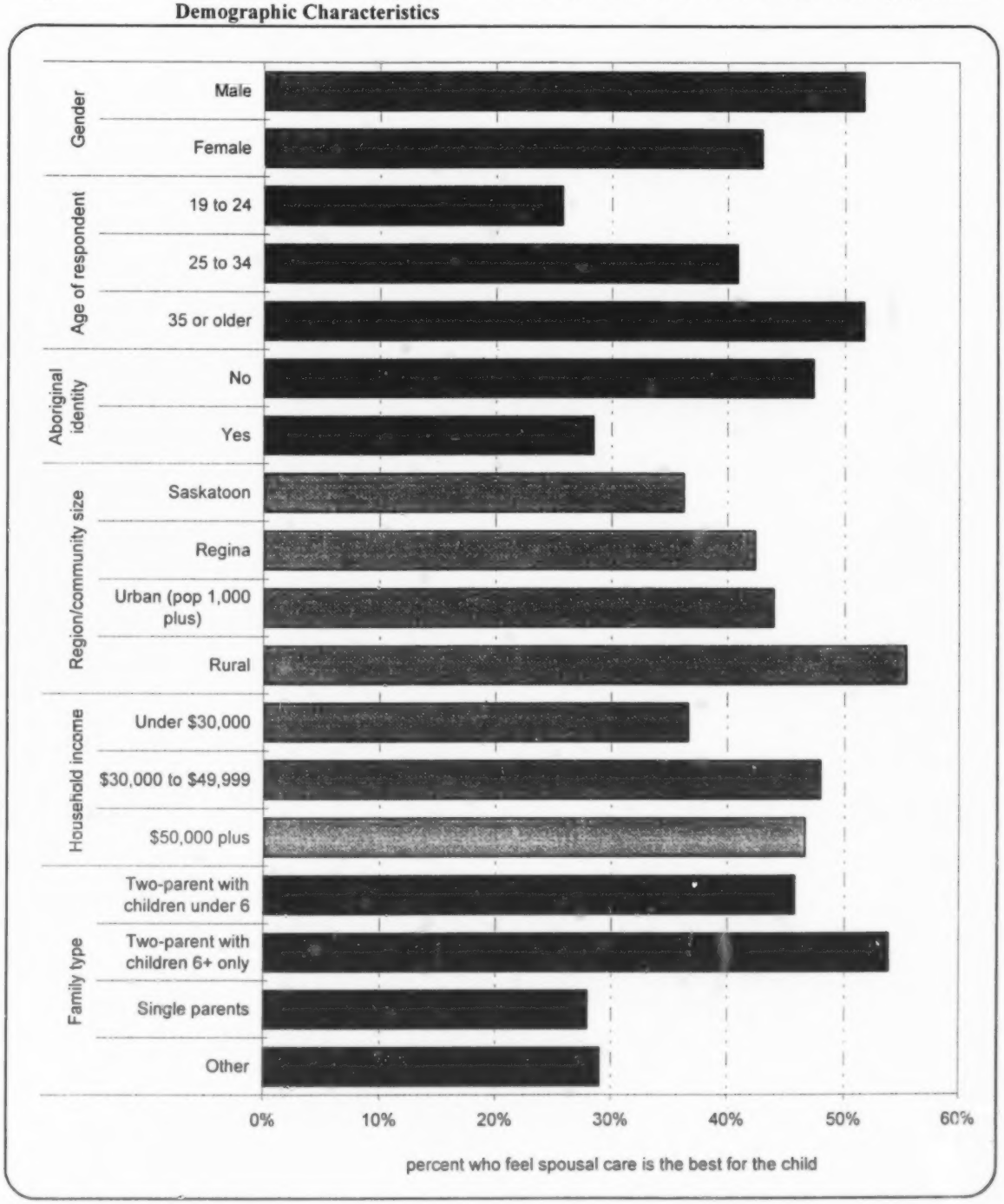


Figure 4.7 **Respondents who Feel Spousal Care is the Best Kind of Care for Pre-Schoolers, by Selected Labour Market Characteristics**

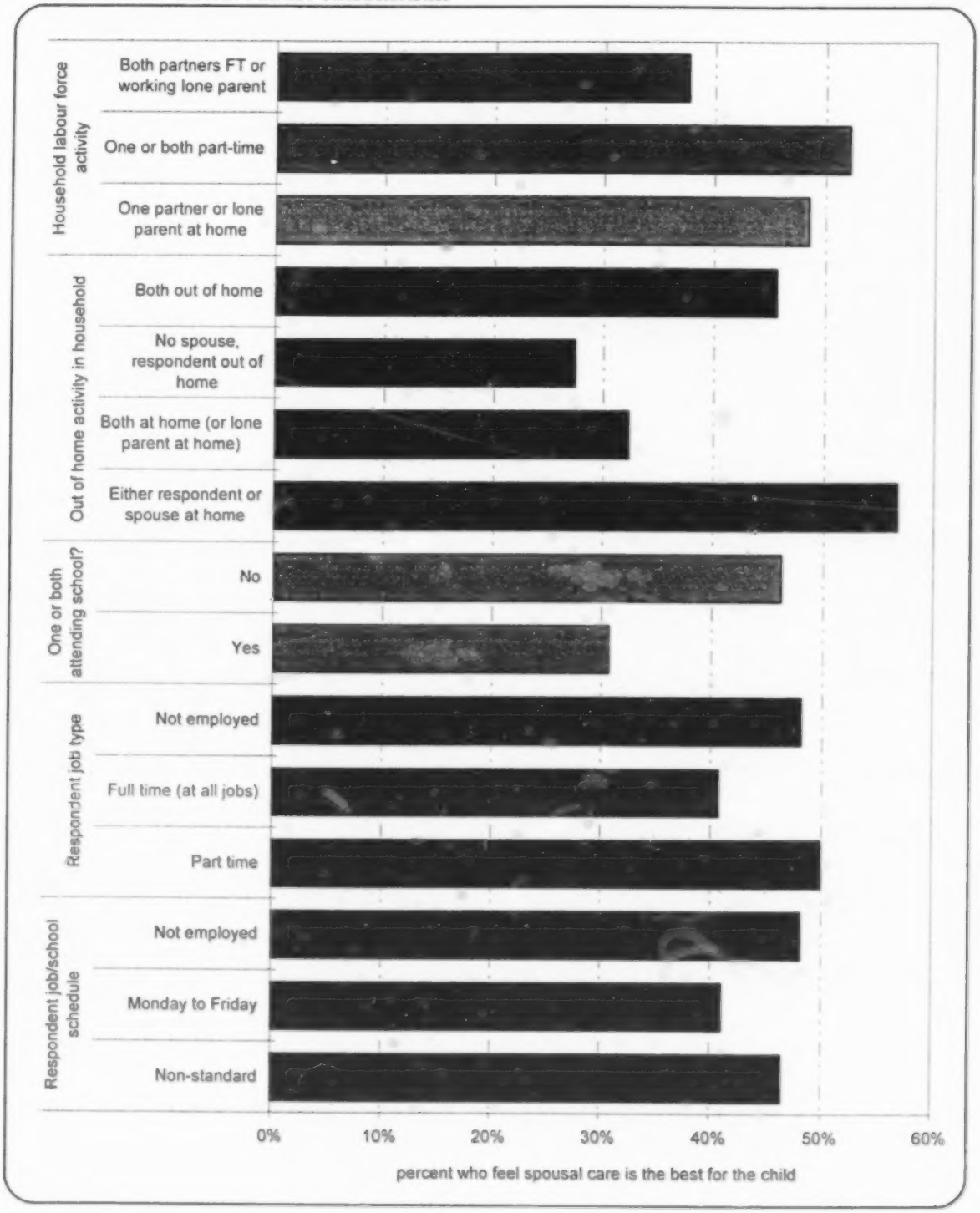


Figure 4.8 **Respondents who Feel Spousal Care is the Best Kind of Care for School-Aged Children, by Selected Demographic Characteristics**

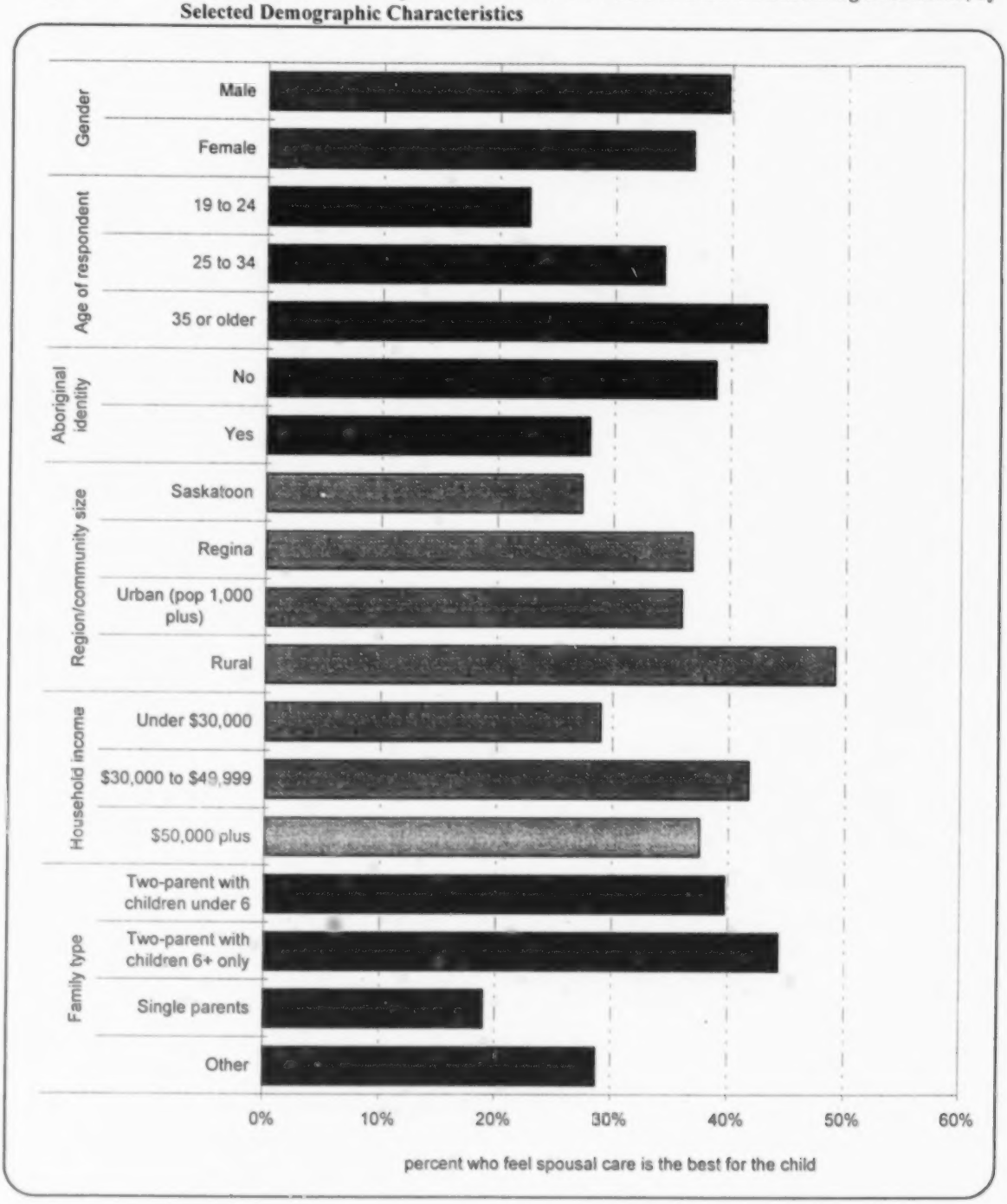
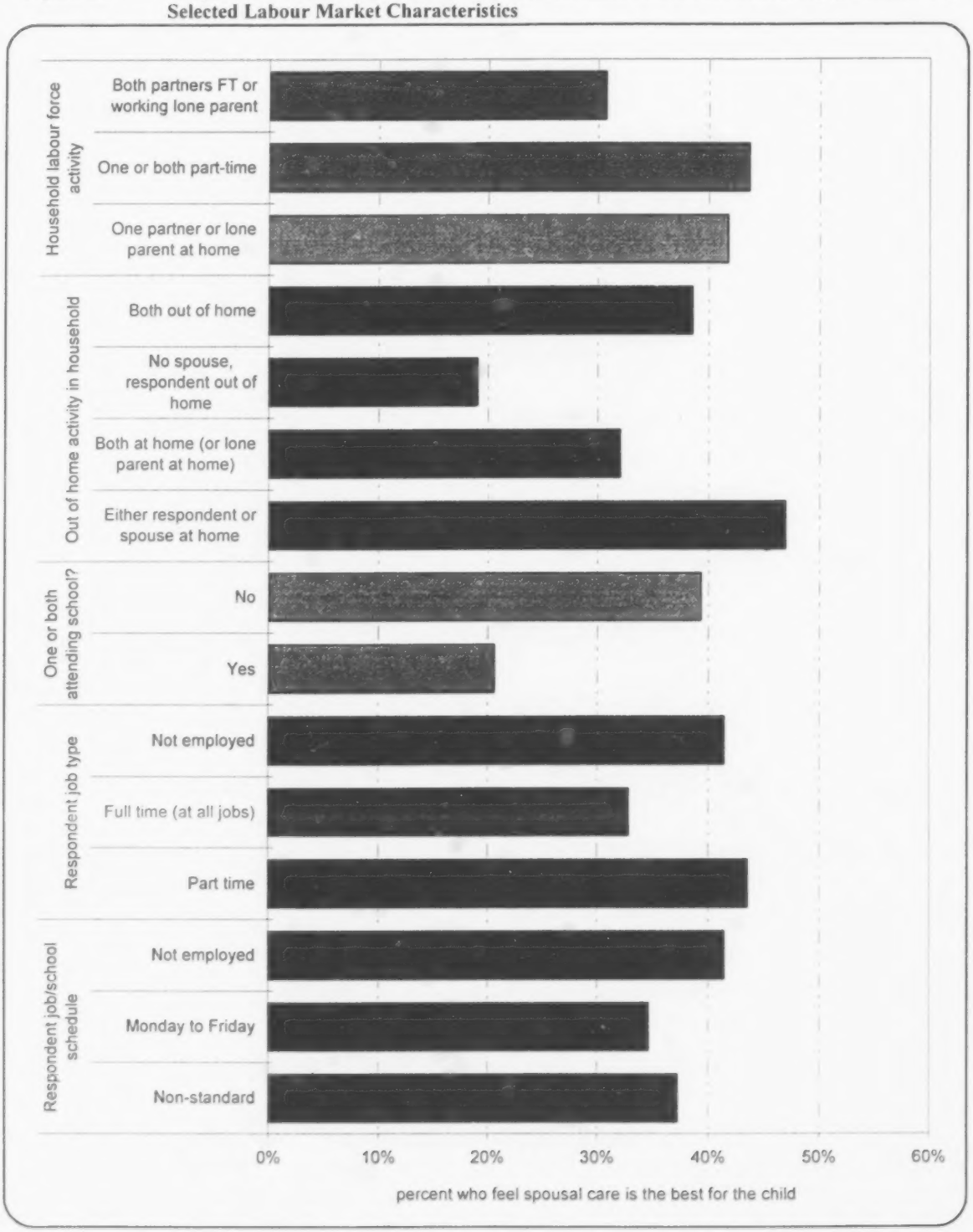


Figure 4.9 **Respondents who Feel Spousal Care is the Best Kind of Care for School Aged Children, by Selected Labour Market Characteristics**



5.0 Stresses

The interview included a number of indirect and direct questions about the stresses related to finding and maintaining a quality child care arrangement. This section describes two indirect measures from the survey as well as the direct set of questions about this topic.

Additional detail about the demographic and labour market characteristics of those reporting high stress levels is included as Appendix D.

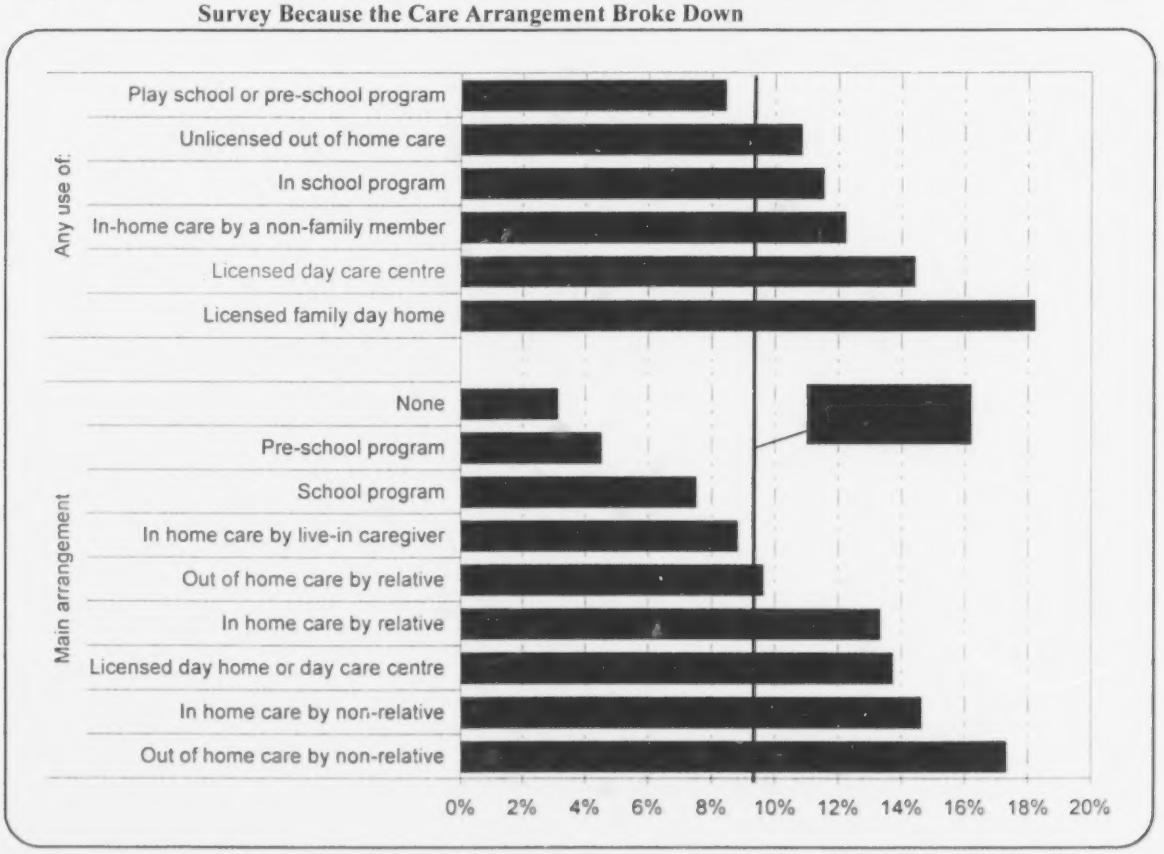
5.1 Abnormal Week Revisited

In Section 3.1, we noted that 11% of households did not have a "normal" week in the week prior to the survey. A breakdown in the normal child care arrangement is enough, in and of itself, to cause stress among parents so this analysis is continued here.

If one excludes the respondents who had an abnormal week because they were off work, then the incidence of abnormal weeks is 9%. In Section 3.1, we found that respondents who were working parents or for whom both partners were working full-time had an above-average incidence of unusual weeks. This remains the case if one excludes the group who were off work in the week prior to the survey.

Figure 5.1 shows the incidence of abnormal weeks according to the type of child care arrangements used in the household and the "main arrangement" determined in Section 3. Those who use out-of-home care arrangements, particularly with non-relatives, were more likely to experience a breakdown in the care arrangement. Compared with the overall rate of 9%, abnormal weeks were higher among users of licensed family day care homes, licensed day care centres, and in-home care by a non-family member. Not surprisingly, the lowest rate of breakdown occurred among those with no main arrangement, that is, those who care for their children themselves, and those where the main arrangement was a pre-school program or a school program.

Figure 5.1 Percentage of Households that had an Abnormal Arrangement in the Week Prior to the Survey Because the Care Arrangement Broke Down



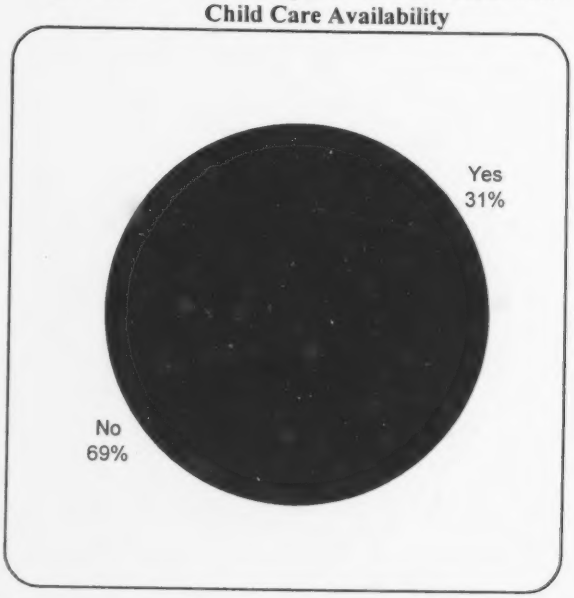
5.2 Difficulty Finding Quality Child Care

Respondents were asked if they had "ever experienced a problem with the availability of suitable child care". Given the availability issues described in Section 4.1, one would have expected a higher percentage than the 31% who said yes to this question (see Figure 5.2).

Although the incidence of a problem is relatively low, the impact of a problem on the respondent's labour market participation is much higher. Among those who have had a problem, the problem limited their ability to work or limited the kinds of employment they could have in more than one half of the cases (see Figure 5.3). The problem had a limiting effect on hours of work in two thirds of the cases.

Only one in four (23%) respondents said that the problem did not affect their labour market participation.

Figure 5.2 Ever Experienced a Problem with Child Care Availability



In the larger context then, between 20% and 25% of Saskatchewan households have experienced a child care problem that affected their labour market participation in some way.

Figure 5.3 Impact of Problem on Labour Market Activities

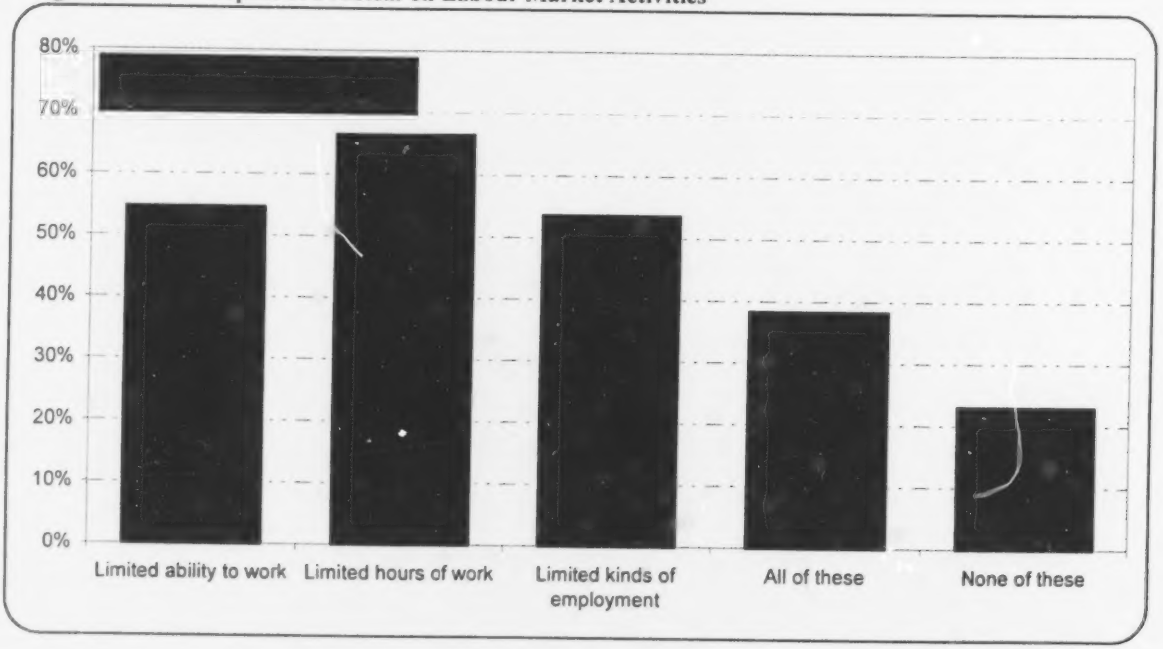
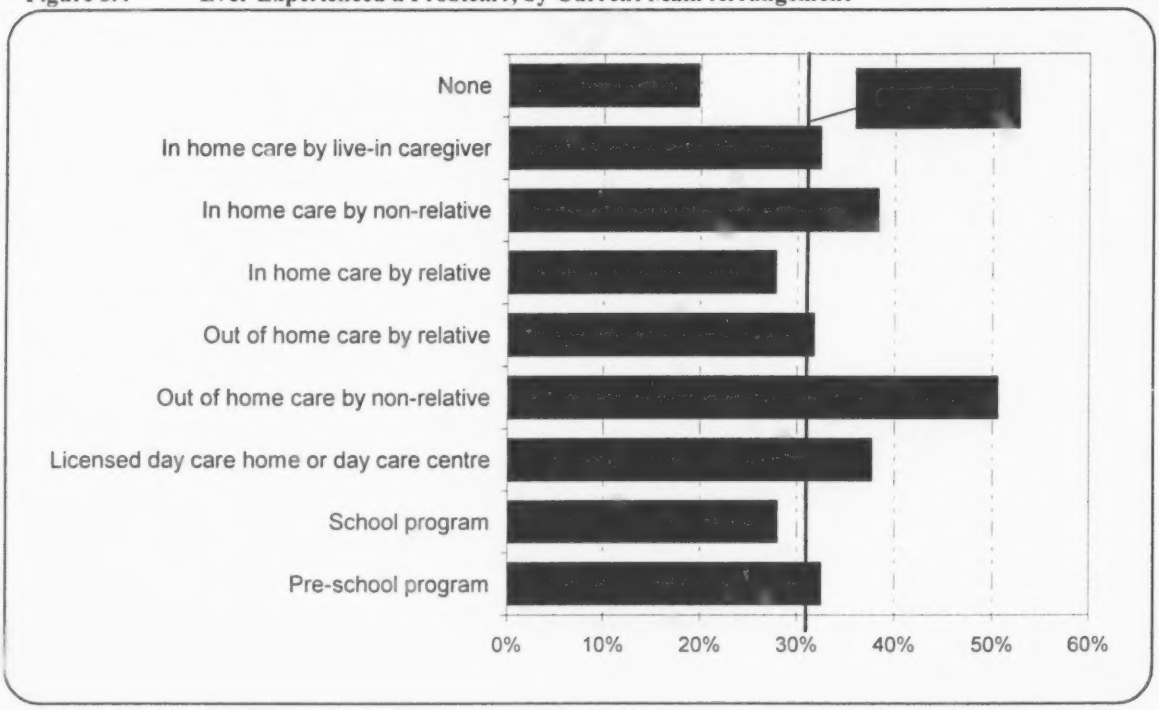


Figure 5.4 Ever Experienced a Problem?, by Current Main Arrangement



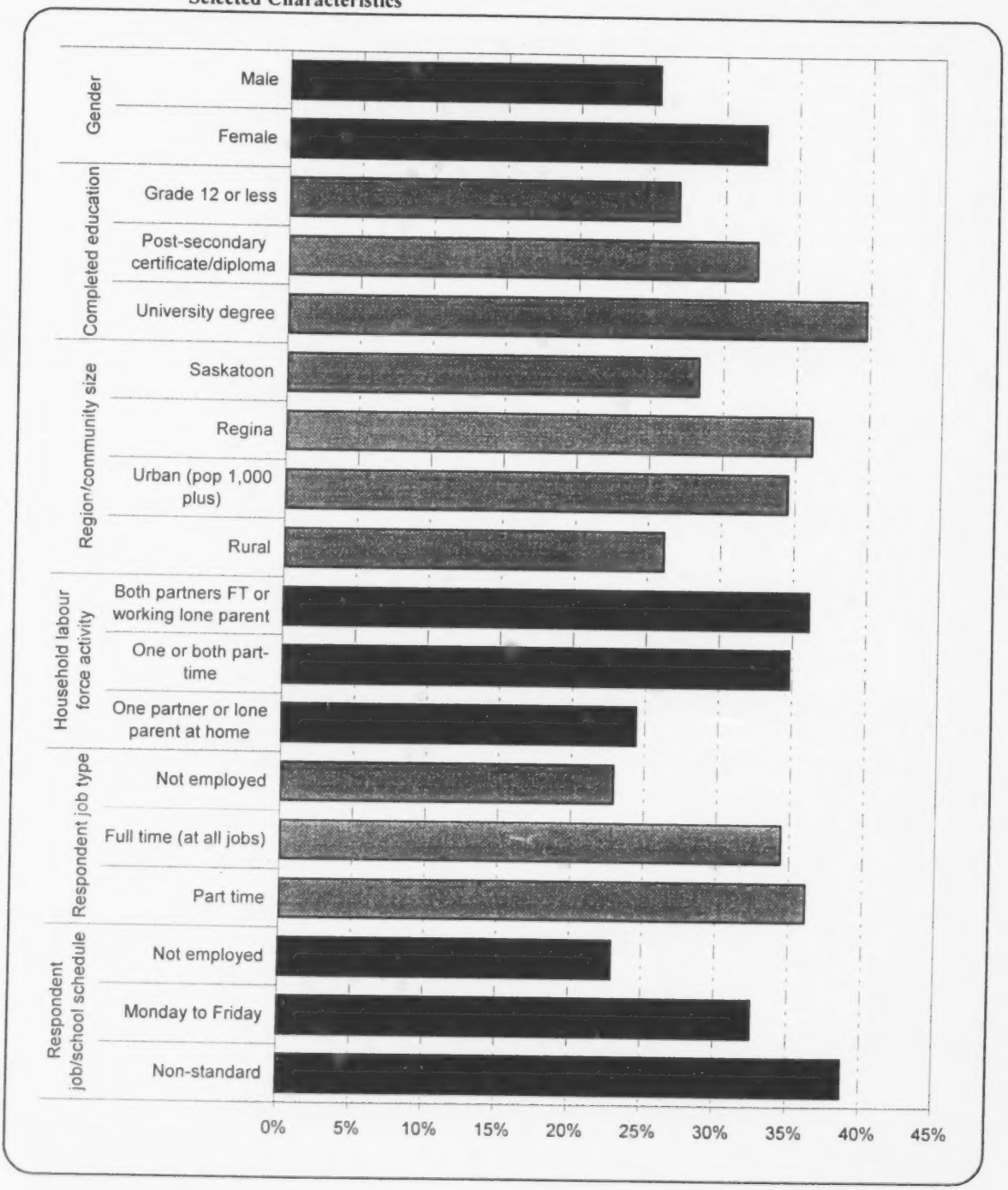
An examination of current and main child care arrangements may shed some light on which respondents have, in the past, had problems finding suitable child care arrangements. Figure 5.4 suggest that there is a correlation. Among those who currently use an out-of-home, non-relative arrangement, the proportion who have had a problem is 51%. Households that currently have no main arrangement, that is, those where only the parents are looking after the children, are the least likely to have had a problem although the proportion is still relatively high at 20%.

The proportion who have experienced a problem in the past is compared with demographic and socio-economic characteristics in Figure 5.5. Although the differences are not large, there is a somewhat higher incidence of problems among:

women;
those with higher levels of education;
households in Regina;
among those respondents working part-time, particularly in non-standard work schedules; and
among those where both partners are working outside the home.

The last observation confirms the earlier finding that difficulties in finding suitable child care arrangements can affect hours of work.

Figure 5.5 **Percent of Respondents who have Experienced Problems Finding Quality Child Care, by Selected Characteristics**



5.3 Direct Stresses

In addition to the indirect measures of difficulty finding and maintaining child care arrangements, respondents were asked directly about stresses involved. "Juggling work, family, and child care responsibilities can sometimes be difficult. Some factors create stress for the parents or children while others reduce it. Given your current work and child care arrangements, I would like to know how much stress or discomfort you feel about each of the following issues....". This question was asked only of the seven out of ten respondents who were regularly out of the home.

The stress factors were rated on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 meaning a great deal of stress and 1 meaning no stress at all. Respondents were given a list of nine potential stressors and the opportunity to add others that they felt belonged on the list[8]. Table 5.1 and Figure 5.6 show the responses to this question.

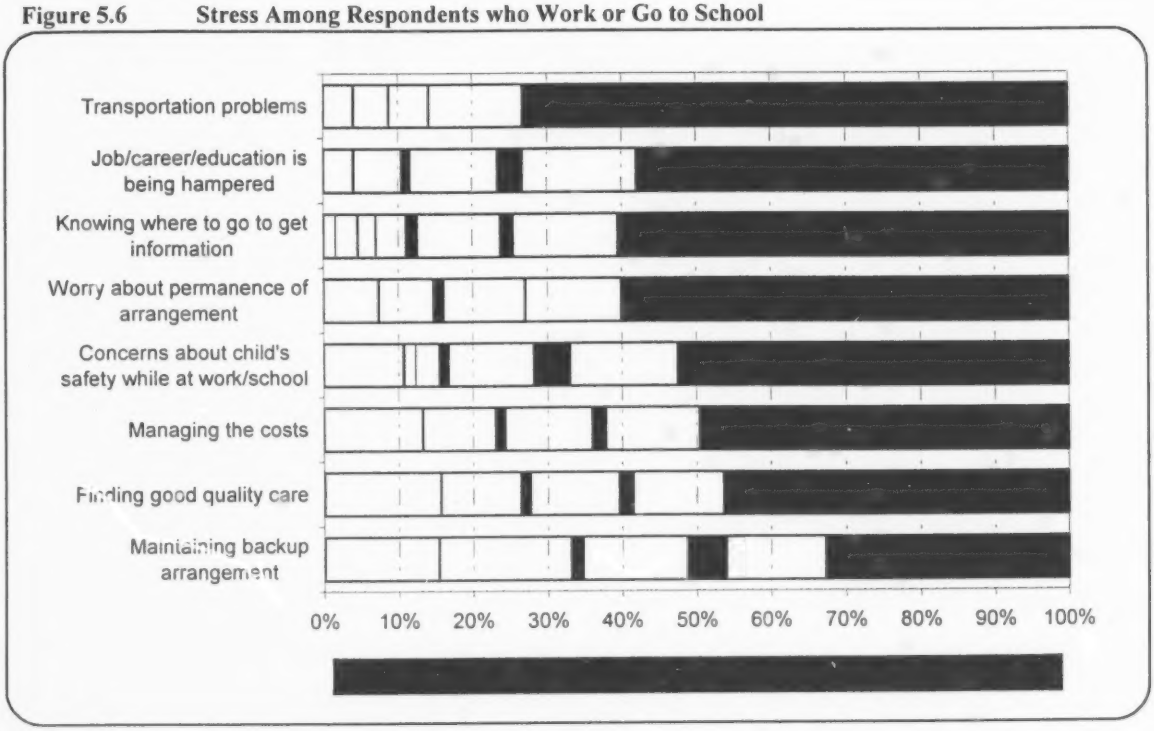
Excluding those who have special needs children, who have a great deal of stress, the single item that invokes the highest stress level was maintaining a backup arrangement – 33% or respondents rated this as a 4 or 5 on the scale. This was followed by the issue of finding good quality care (27% rated a 4 or 5) and managing the costs (23%). The issue that caused the least stress was transportation, an issue that caused no stress at all for 73% of respondents.

Table 5.1 Stresses Among Respondents who Work or Go to School

	Responses	1 = no stress at all	2	3	4	5 = a great deal of stress
Concerns about child's safety and well being while you are at work/school	892	51%	19%	14%	5%	11%
Feeling that your job or career (education) is being hampered by difficulties with child care arrangements	890	57%	20%	13%	7%	4%
Transportation problems getting between work and child care arrangements	870	73%	13%	5%	5%	4%
Maintaining backup arrangement for temporary or emergency use	890	32%	17%	18%	18%	15%
Finding good quality care	880	46%	12%	15%	11%	16%
Worrying that your arrangement will not be available much longer	889	59%	14%	12%	8%	7%
Managing the costs of quality care	887	50%	13%	15%	10%	13%
Knowing where to go to get information about child care	883	60%	15%	14%	7%	5%
Finding an arrangement that will accommodate your child's special needs	68	41%	6%	13%	9%	30%

[8] Fourteen respondents mentioned other items including scheduling issues, being away from their children, quality of facilities, etc.

Figure 5.6 Stress Among Respondents who Work or Go to School



Although no single stressor rates very highly on the scale, we cannot conclude that stress levels are uniformly low. In fact, four out of ten respondents (39%) rated at least one of the stressors as a four or a five on the scale. On the other hand, almost one half (47%) rated no stressor at all above the level of a two. So the issues canvassed in this question, taken in their entirety, tend to generate either a great deal of stress or else hardly any stress at all.

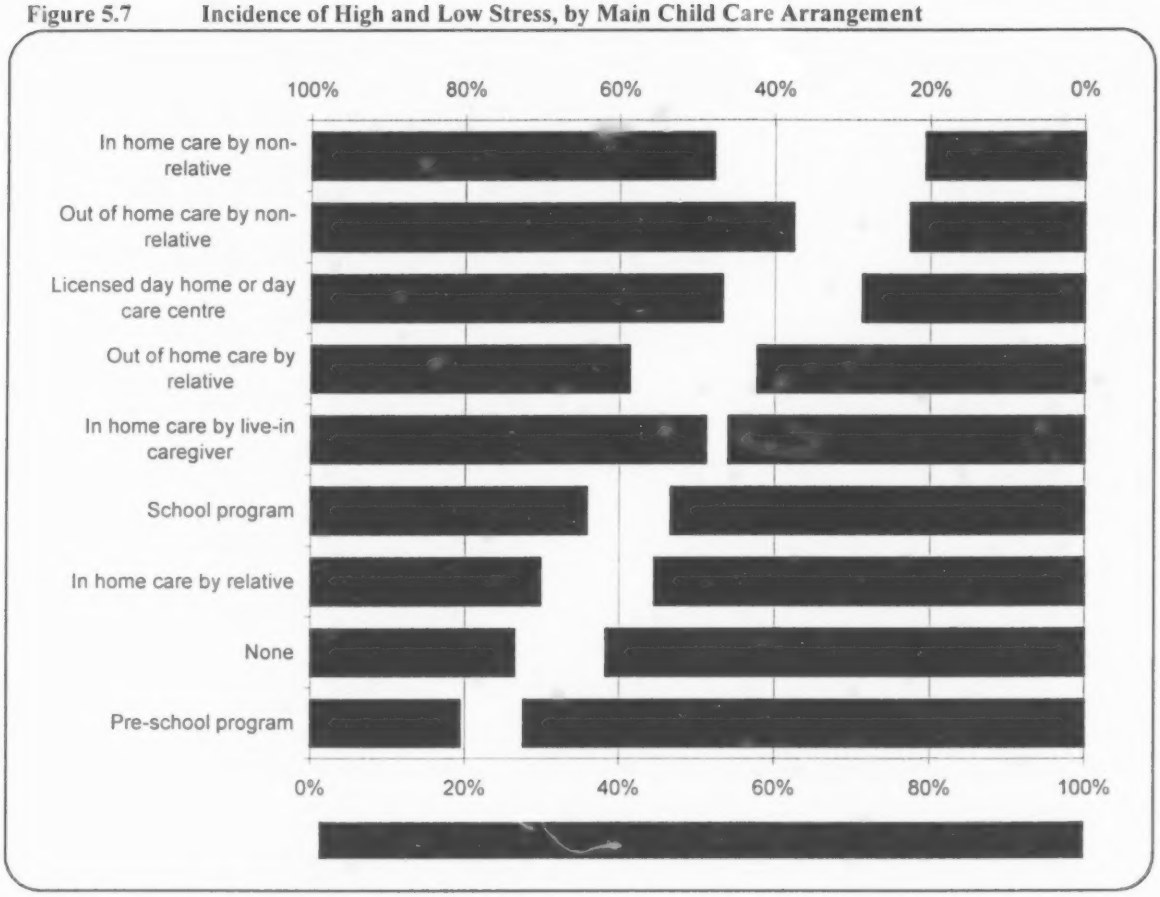
Stress levels might be expected to be higher among those who have to manage an out-of-home arrangement and Figure 5.7 confirms this view. The proportion of respondents who had at least one stressor rated as a four or a five is noticeably higher among those whose main arrangement is:

non-licensed care (out of home care by a non-relative) where 62% report at least one stressor at a level of 4 or 5;
licensed day care homes or day care centres (53%);
in-home care by a non-relative (52%); and
in-home care by a live-in caregiver (51%).

These kinds of arrangements are typically, but not always, accompanied by a low proportion of respondents who report no stressor above the level of 2. The exception is in-home care by a live-in caregiver where 46% of respondents report low levels of stress, leaving very few that have a moderate level of stress.

Lower levels of stress are associated with those who have no "main" child care arrangement, those whose main arrangement is in-home care by a relative, and those whose main arrangement is a pre-school program.

Figure 5.7 Incidence of High and Low Stress, by Main Child Care Arrangement



High stress levels are compared with demographic and socio-economic characteristics in Figure 5.8. Compared with an overall rate of 39%, high stress levels seem to be less common among:

those living in rural areas (28%);
those with lower incomes per person;
those whose youngest child is under 2 years of age (32%); and
households with one partner at home (14%).

Two subgroups of the population show particularly high levels of stress overall – respondents of Aboriginal identity and those in households with lower income levels. These differences are highlighted in Figures 5.9 and 5.10.

Figure 5.8 General High Stress Levels by Selected Characteristics

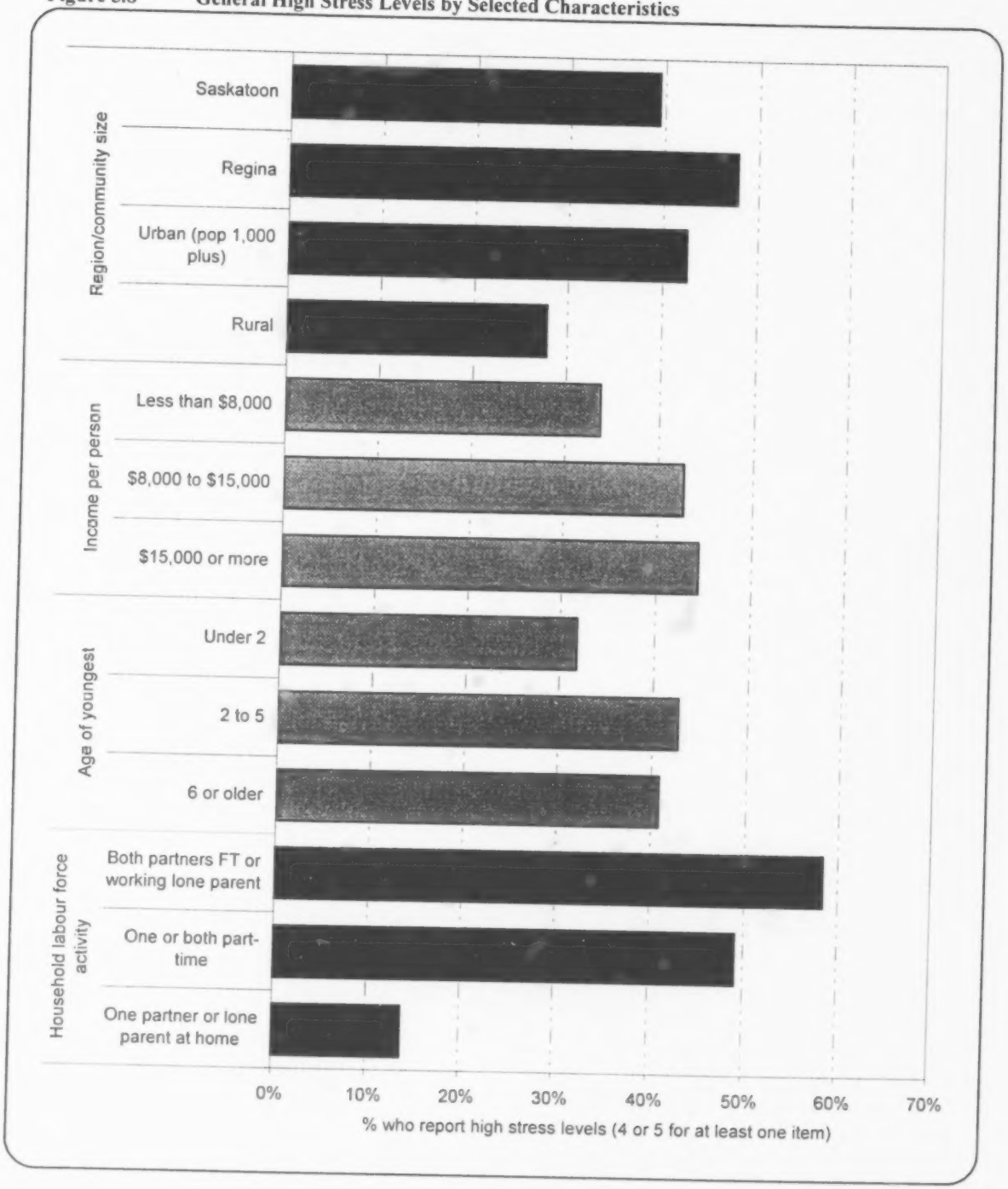


Figure 5.9 Specific High Stress Levels by Aboriginal Identity

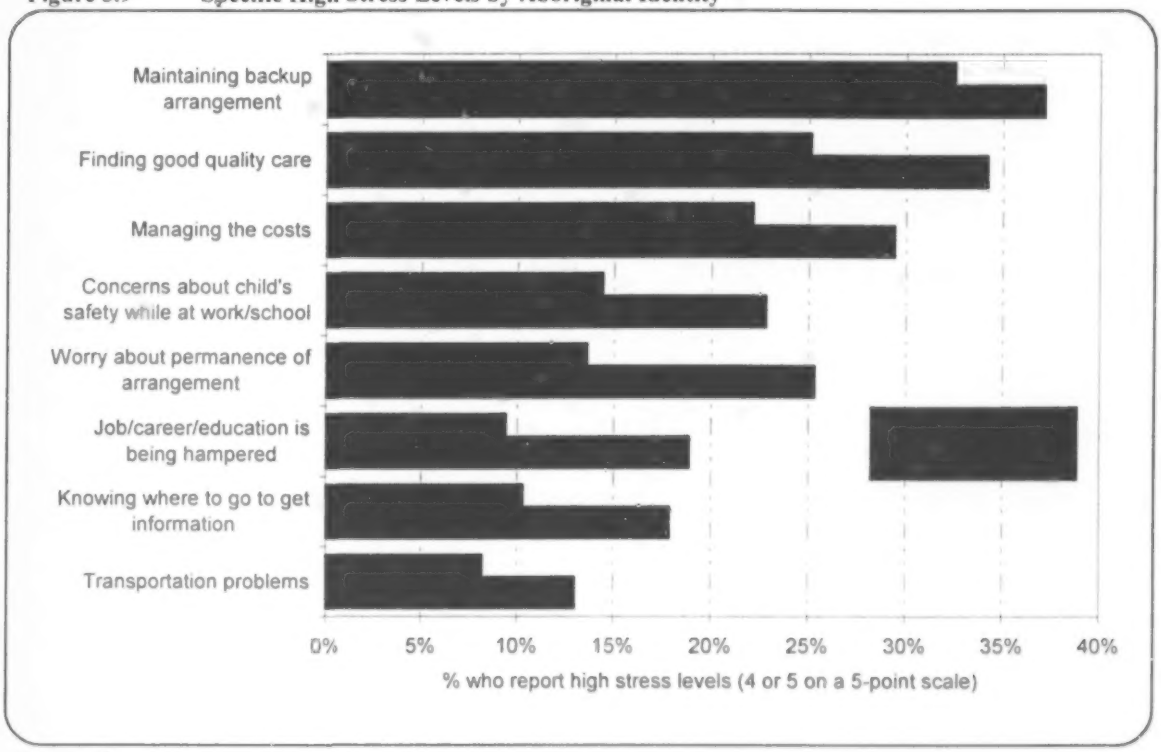
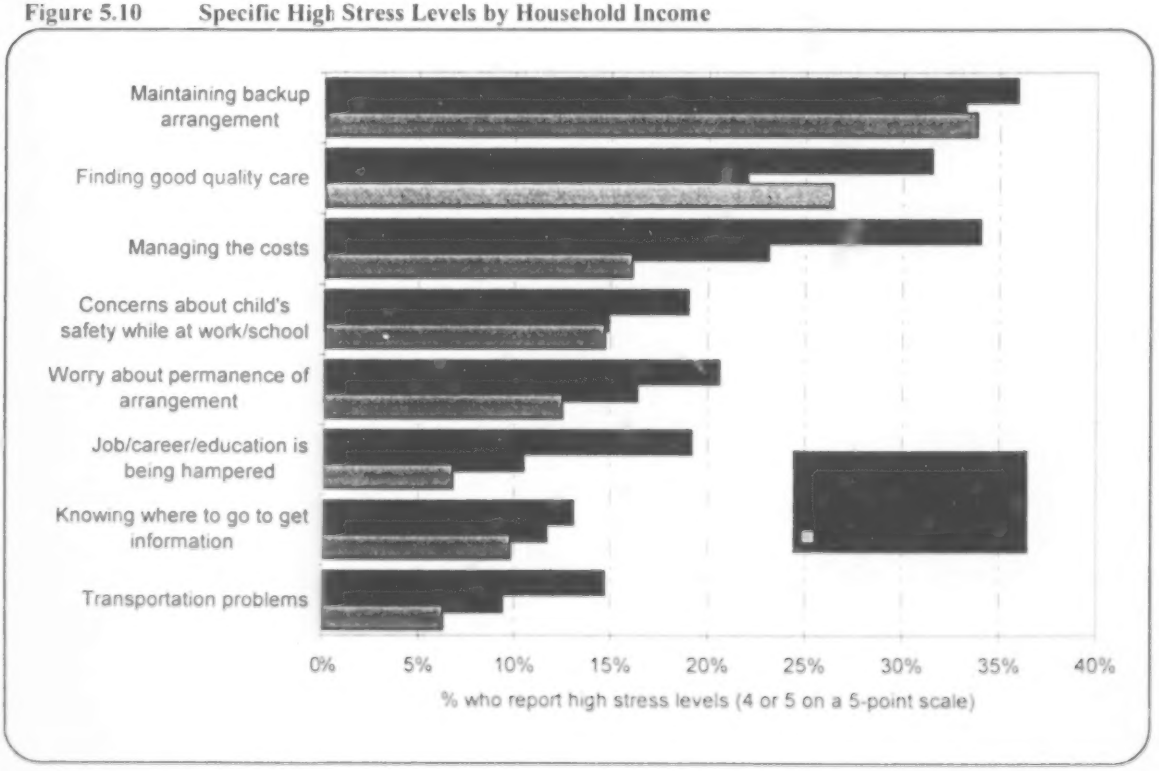


Figure 5.10 Specific High Stress Levels by Household Income



6.0 What Characteristics Parents Look for in their Child Care Arrangements

In this section, the basic question "What constitutes good quality child care?" is addressed.

About midway through the interview, respondents were asked where they obtain information when looking for their current child care information. They were then given a list of characteristics of good quality child care and asked which of them were important.

Additional detail about the demographic and labour market characteristics of those who value specific characteristics of child care arrangements is included in Appendix E.

6.1 Sources of Child Care Information

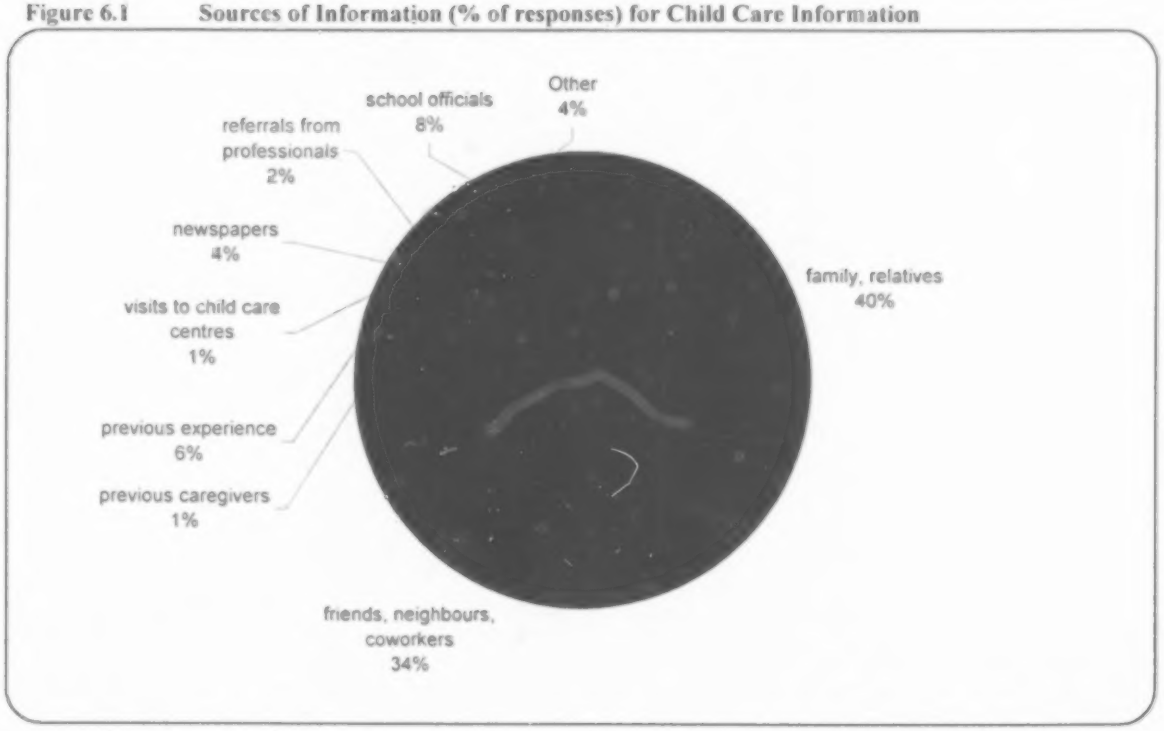
Respondents were asked what information sources they used to find their current child care arrangement. Figure 6.1 and Table 6.1 show that four out of five respondents answering this question rely on informal sources – family, friends, and neighbours for example – when looking for a child care arrangement.

Formal sources were used more often (39% of responses) if the current main child care arrangement in the household was a licensed day care centre.

Table 6.1 Sources of Information for Child Care Arrangements

		Count	Percent of sources
Generally informal sources	family, relatives	329	39%
	friends, neighbours, coworkers	288	34%
	previous caregivers	10	1%
	previous experience	52	6%
	Subtotal	679	80%
More formal sources	visits to child care centres	11	1%
	newspapers	33	4%
	referrals from professionals	20	2%
	school officials	68	8%
	pamphlets/books	11	1%
	bulletin boards	11	1%
	yellow pages	7	<1%
	church organizations	4	<1%
	Subtotal	165	20%
Grand total		844	100%

Figure 6.1 Sources of Information (% of responses) for Child Care Information



6.2 Characteristics of Quality Care

Respondents were given a list of sixteen characteristics of a good child care arrangement and asked to rank them on a four point scale from "not at all important" to "very important". They were also given the opportunity to mention other characteristics that they thought were important. Table 6.2 shows the responses to the sixteen pre-defined characteristics in the survey. The same information is shown graphically in Figure 6.2.

With only two exceptions, respondents rated all of the characteristics as either somewhat or very important. The exceptions are that the facility is licensed by the government (47% rated this as important) and that the caregiver has a similar cultural background (46% rated this as important).

Table 6.2 Importance of Child Care Characteristics

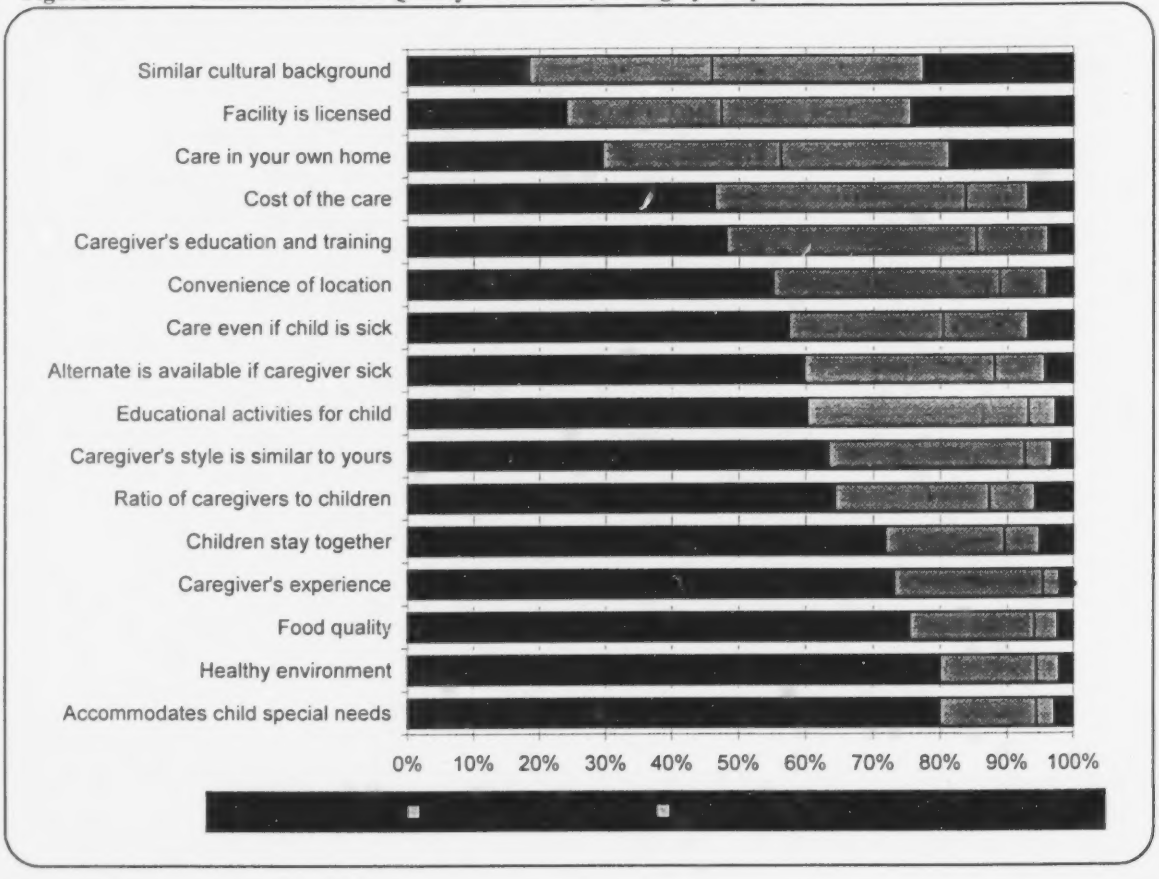
	Count	Not at all important	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important
The caregiver provides care in your home	1,234	19%	25%	27%	30%
The arrangement allows your children to stay together as much as possible	1,149	5%	5%	18%	72%
The caregiver would provide care when your child is sick	1,239	7%	13%	23%	57%
The caregiver's style of working with children is similar to your own	1,247	3%	4%	29%	63%
Alternative care is available if the caregiver is ill	1,248	4%	8%	28%	60%
The caregiver has a similar cultural background to your own	1,245	23%	32%	28%	18%
The arrangement accommodates child's special needs	100	3%	3%	15%	80%
The convenience of the location	1,246	4%	7%	34%	55%
The cost of the care	1,237	7%	9%	37%	46%
The quality of food served	1,245	2%	4%	19%	75%
The kinds of educational activities for the children	1,250	3%	4%	33%	60%
The environment is healthy for children, by this I mean it is smoke-free, or free of things that aggravate allergies or breathing difficulties like pet fur or mold	1,251	2%	4%	14%	80%
The caregiver's education and training	1,243	4%	11%	37%	48%
The caregiver's experience	1,245	2%	3%	22%	73%
The ratio of caregivers to children	1,226	6%	7%	23%	64%
The facility is licensed by the government	1,218	24%	28%	23%	24%

Virtually all respondents agreed that some characteristics were somewhat or very important, namely:

the caregiver's experience (95% of respondents);
a healthy environment (94%);
good quality food (94%);
educational activities for the children (93%);
the caregiver's style is similar to your own (93%);
the arrangement allows the children to stay together (90%).

To determine which characteristics are the most important to which group of parents, an analysis of each of the sixteen quality of care characteristics was undertaken. The analysis looked at sixteen demographic and labour market variables such as income, age, and work schedule; current child care arrangements in ten categories; and the amount of spending on child care. Using a clustering algorithm[9], subgroups of the population which were the least likely and the most likely to rate the characteristic as important were determined.

Figure 6.2 Characteristics of Quality Child Care, Rating by Respondents



9 CHAID - Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection - Using Chi-square values, the algorithm successively divides the population into smaller and smaller subgroups with statistically significant variations in the target variable.

The analysis found that four characteristics were more likely than others to have an effect on which characteristics were seen as important, providing some insights into what parents value in their child care arrangements.

1. Users of licensed day care centres tend to rank educational activities for the children, food quality, and caregivers education and training as very important (see Figure 6.3).

2. Women tend to rank more issues as very important than men – the caregiver's style of working with children, convenience of the location, cost, and caregiver's experience, for example – see Figure 6.4).

3. Aboriginal respondents are more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to rank most characteristics as very important (see Figure 6.5). In particular, they are more likely to rank licensing as very important (43% do so compared with 20% of non-Aboriginal respondents) and also more likely to want their children at home, to value both the caregiver's education/training, and to value educational activities for the children.

4. Those with lower incomes are, not surprisingly, more concerned about the cost of the care (see Figure 6.6). They are also more likely than those with higher incomes to rank licensing and the caregiver's education and training as very important.

Figure 6.3 **Percent of Respondents who Rank Characteristics as Very Important, by Current Use of Licensed Day Care Centres**

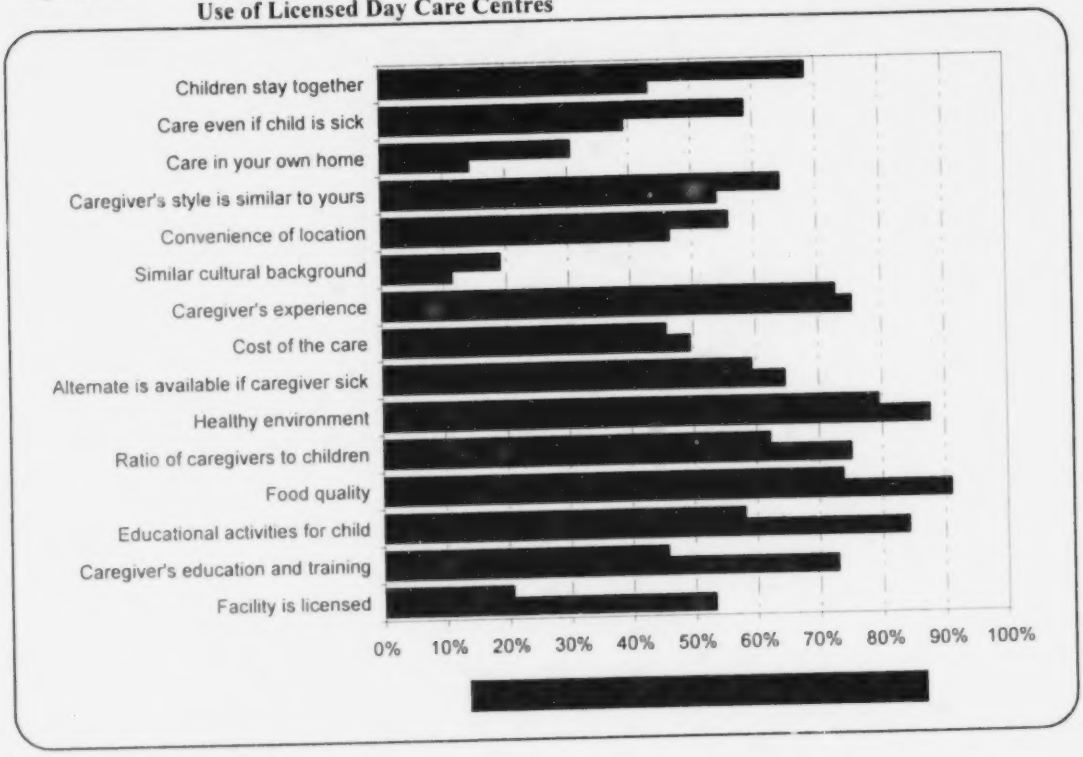


Figure 6.4 **Percentage of Respondents who Rank Characteristics as Very Important, by Gender**

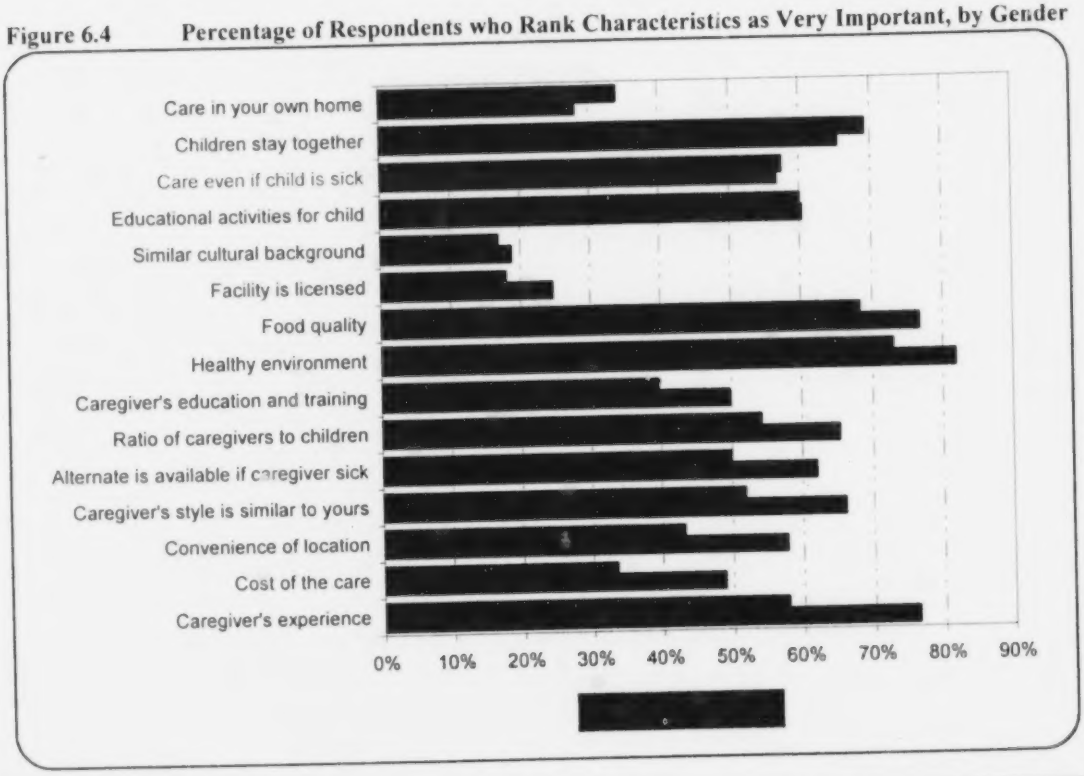


Figure 6.5 **Percentage of Respondents who Rank Characteristics as Very Important, by Aboriginal Identity**

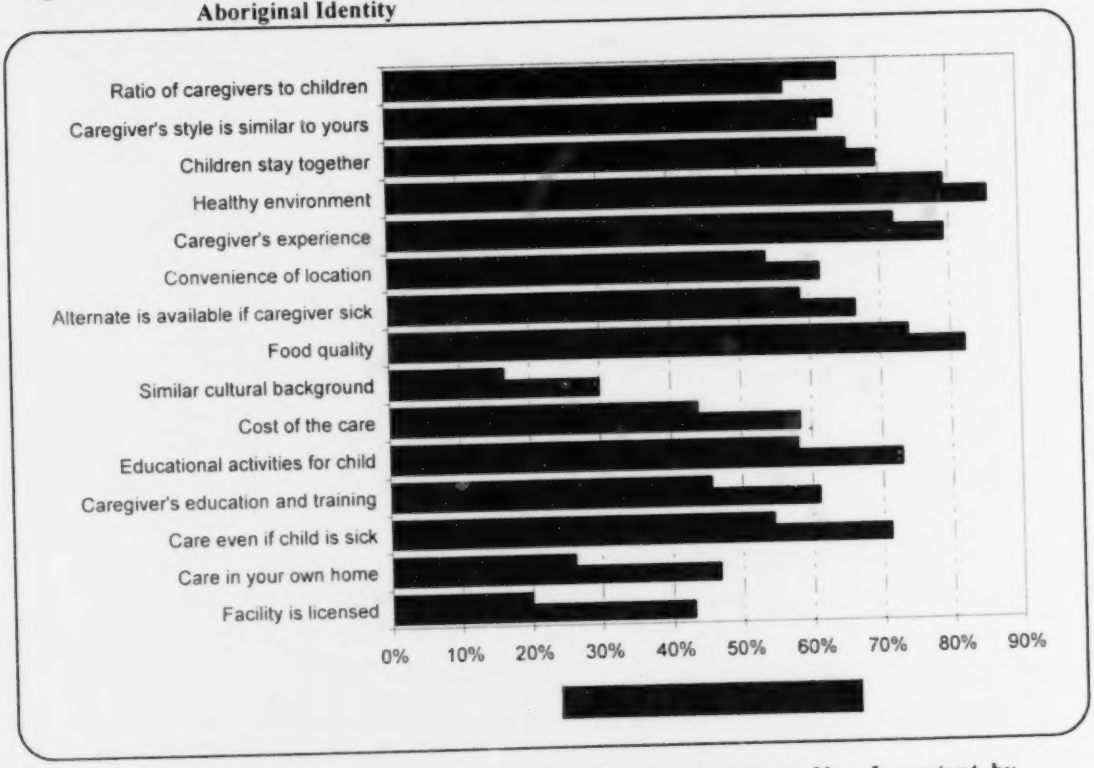
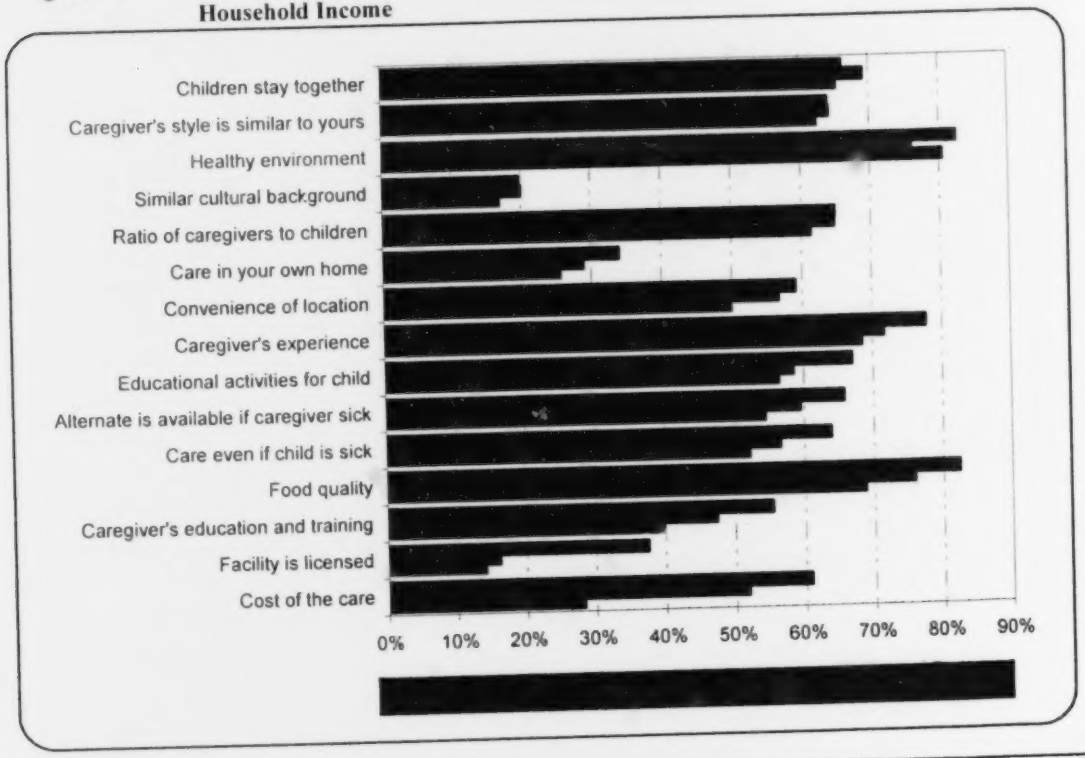


Figure 6.6 **Percentage of Respondents who Rank Characteristics as Very Important, by Household Income**



Respondents who reported that more than one characteristic was "very important" were asked to pick the single most important characteristic of a child care arrangement. Figure 6.7 shows that there was no consensus; the largest percentage, chosen by 23% of respondents, was a safe environment.

Although there is a good deal of overlap, the characteristics can be divided into four categories. The first set represent issues about the arrangement itself such as a convenient location or alternatives if the caregiver or child is ill. These accounted for 22% of responses. Child development issues such as the style of working, the education or experience of the care provider, for example, accounted for 47% of responses. Basic safety and food quality accounted for 25% of responses. The remaining 6% of respondents mentioned cost, the licensing of the facility, or the ability to accommodate the child's special needs.

There is some evidence that parents who are looking for the developmental characteristics of child care are having more difficulty finding suitable arrangements. Among those who reported that they have experienced a problem finding suitable child care (see Section 4.2), 51% said that one of the "developmental" characteristics was the single most important. This compares with 45% of those who have never had a problem (see Figure 6.8). Apparently those who are more concerned about developmental issues and "other" issues such as cost and licensing are having somewhat more difficulty finding a suitable child care arrangement.

Table 6.3 The Single Most Important Characteristic of Quality Child Care

		Percent
Arrangement issues	Care in your own home	5%
	Children stay together	8%
	Care when your child is sick	4%
	Alternative available if the caregiver is ill	2%
	Convenience of the location	2%
	Subtotal	22%
Develop-mental issues	Similar style of working	15%
	Similar cultural background	2%
	Caregiver's experience	14%
	Educational activities	6%
	Ratio of caregivers to children	5%
	Caregiver's education and training	5%
	Subtotal	47%
Basic safety issues	Quality of food	2%
	Health environment	23%
	Subtotal	25%
Other issues	Facility is licensed	2%
	Cost of the care	3%
	Accommodates special needs	1%
	Subtotal	6%

Figure 6.7 Single Most Important Characteristic of Quality Child Care

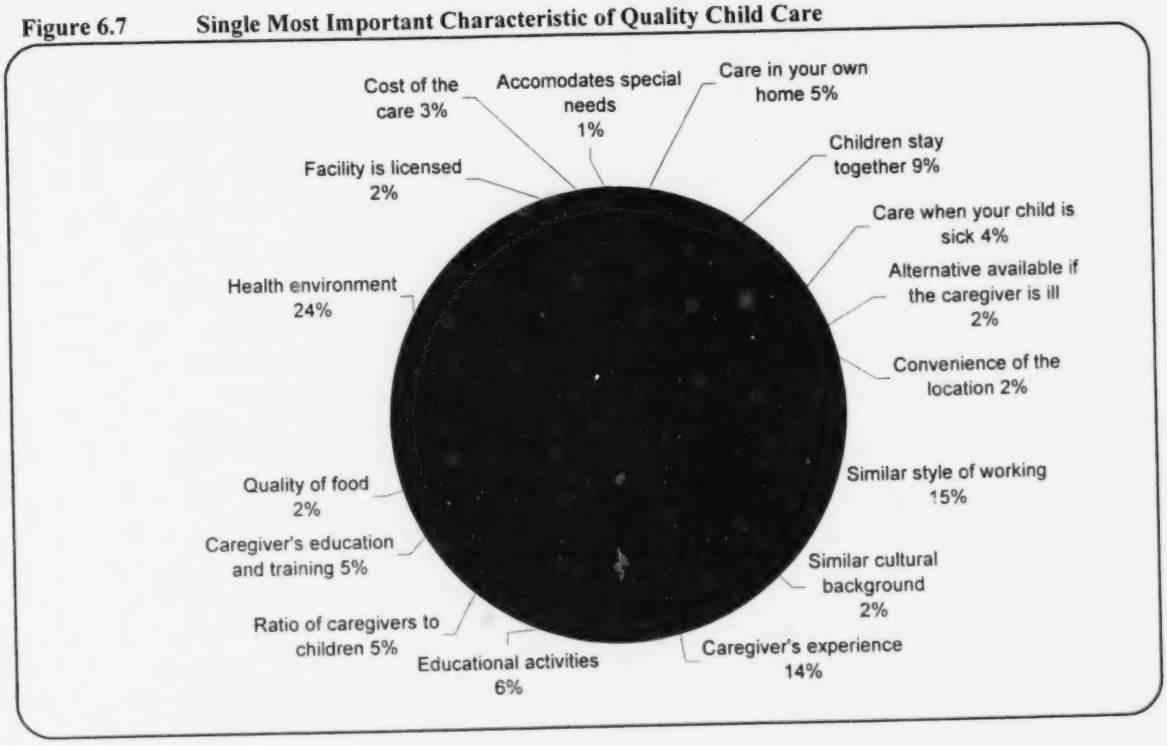
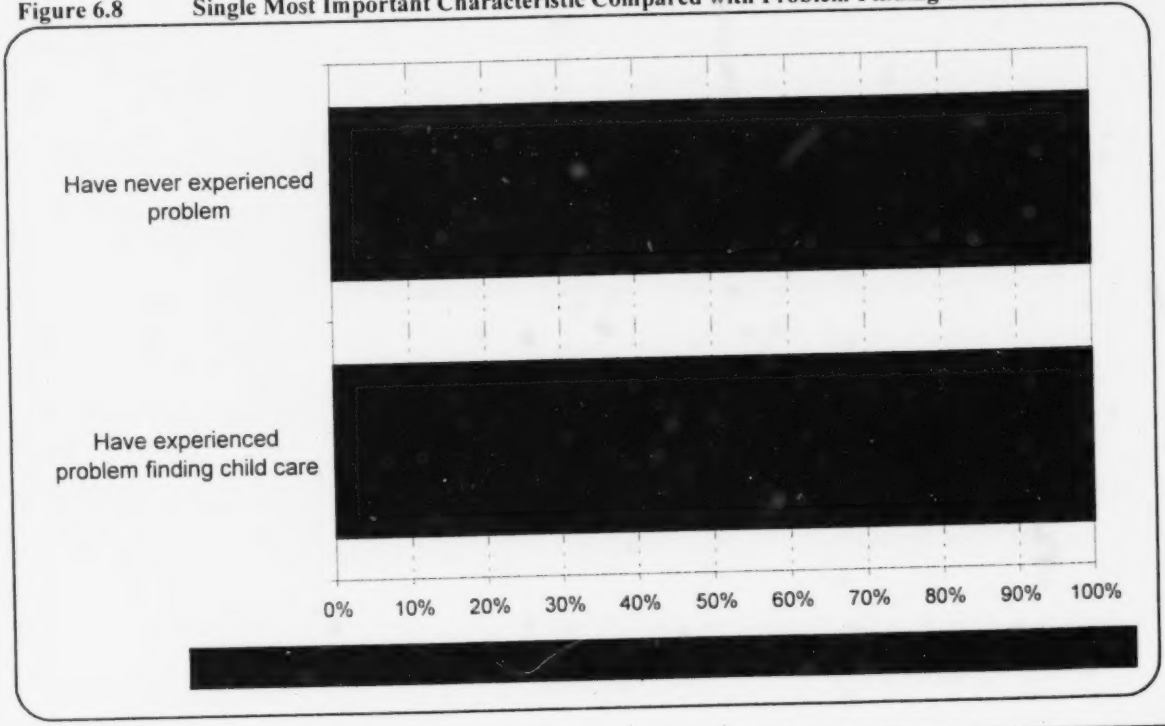

Cost of the care 3%
Accomodates special needs 1%
Care in your own home 5%
Children stay together 9%
Facility is licensed 2%
Care when your child is sick 4%
Health environment 24%
Alternative available if the caregiver is ill 2%
Convenience of the location 2%
Quality of food 2%
Similar style of working 15%
Caregiver's education and training 5%
Similar cultural background 2%
Ratio of caregivers to children 5%
Educational activities 6%
Caregiver's experience 14%

Figure 6.8 Single Most Important Characteristic Compared with Problem Finding Suitable Child Care



Examined by the four categories, we see in Figure 6.7 a number of relatively minor differences among respondents according to demographic and labour market characteristics.

Women are somewhat more likely than men to rate developmental issues as the single most important; men were more likely to choose arrangement issues.

Those with a university degree were somewhat more likely to choose developmental and safety issues and less likely to choose arrangement issues.

Aboriginal respondents were more likely to choose development issues and "other" issues, namely the cost of the care and whether or not the care was licensed.

Households with no children under six were more likely to choose basic safety issues.

Low income households were more likely to choose "other" issues, namely the cost of the care and whether or not the care was licensed.

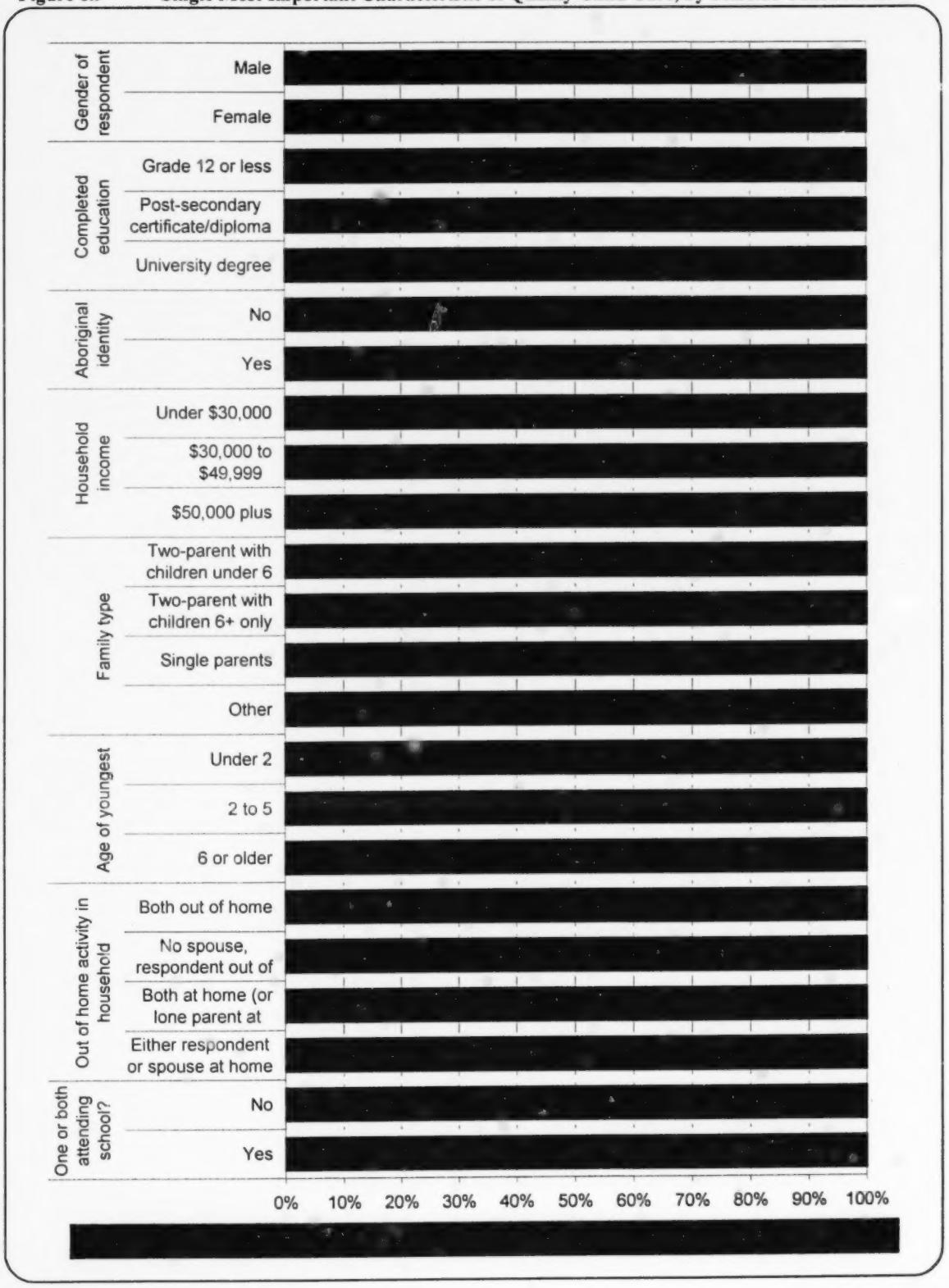
Lone parents were more likely to choose developmental issues and "other" issues.

Those with only children over the age of six were more likely to choose arrangement issues.

If the parents are both at home or if a lone parent is at home then "other" issues were more likely to be chosen.

If the respondent was attending school developmental and "other" issues were more likely to be chosen.

Figure 6.9 **Single Most Important Characteristic of Quality Child Care, by Selected Characteristics**



Other Important Characteristics

Table 6.4 shows the number of respondents who mentioned characteristics that they thought were important but were not covered by the pre-defined characteristics in the survey.

Many respondents took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of characteristics asked about earlier – the safety of the surroundings, for example. Background checks on the caregivers and issues about scheduling and hours of operation were also mentioned.

Table 6.4 Other Items Mentioned as Important Characteristics of Quality Child Care

	Number of Respondents*
Background checks	15
They get along	14
Safety of surroundings	12
Available hours, hours of operation	8
Discipline used	7
First aid training	7
Responsible, trustworthy	7
Amount of nurturing, care	5
Able to pick up, drop off children at school/activities	5
Same religious or moral beliefs	5
Flexibility in hours	4
Number of other children being cared for	4
Cleanliness, sanitary facility	3
Children are comfortable, happy	3
Resources to help when caring for disabled children	3
Consistency	2
Has other kids of the same age	2
Kids have more time to spend with parent	2

* if more than one

7.0 What Parents Think About Child Care and the Role of Government

There are two general views about why parents use child care. Are child care services simply arrangements to look after young children when their parents are unable to do so because of work or school commitments? Or is child care part an essential element of social development for pre-school aged children?

What is the role of government in meeting the need for child care services? There are differing opinions about whether the role is to ensure child care is

affordable, especially to those with low incomes who wish to work or go to school,
accessible in all communities and regions of the province, or
appropriate in the sense that they are safe and secure, or

a combination of the three.

Near the end of the interview, aspects of these questions were directed to respondents in a series of attitudinal questions. These same attitudinal/opinion questions were asked in a general survey of Saskatchewan residents in April 2001[10] and the results from that survey are presented in this section as well.

Additional detail about the demographic and labour market characteristics of responses to these opinion questions is included as Appendix F.

10 Omnibus Poll conducted by Anderson-Fast during the week of April 17 to April 25, 2001. One thousand Saskatchewan residents were surveyed by telephone.

7.1 Opinions About Child Care and the Role of Government

Table 7.1 shows the responses to the eleven opinion questions in the survey and Figure 7.1 shows the same information graphically.

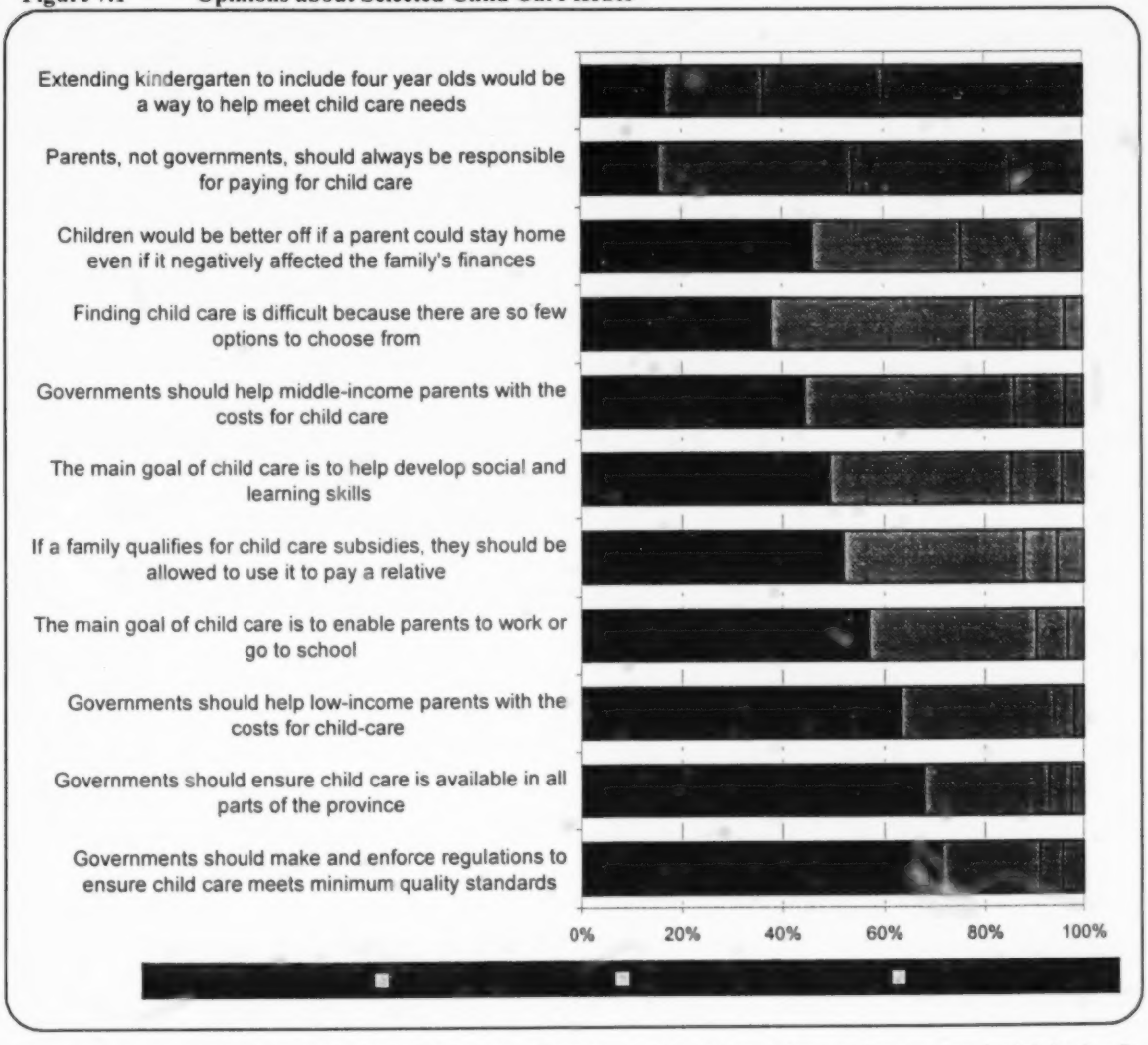
There is clearly a strong preference among respondents for government involvement in aspects of child care. A majority of survey respondents agreed with all of the statements except one, namely that parents, rather than governments, should be responsible for paying for child care. The strongest agreement was with three questions on the role of government:

provision of subsidies to low income families (94% agreed, 63% strongly);
ensuring availability throughout the province (92% agreed, 68% strongly); and
making and enforcing regulations (90% agreed, 71% strongly).

Table 7.1 Respondent Opinions on Selected Issues

	Count	Percent who:			
		Disagree strongly	Disagree somewhat	Agree somewhat	Agree strongly
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province	1,257	3%	5%	25%	68%
Finding the child care arrangement parents want is difficult because there are so few child care options to choose from	1,216	4%	18%	40%	38%
Children would be better off if one of their parents could stay home to look after them even if it negatively affected the family's financial situation	1,241	9%	16%	29%	46%
Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs in Saskatchewan	1,245	40%	24%	20%	17%
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care services meet minimum quality standards	1,246	5%	5%	20%	71%
Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care	1,259	2%	4%	31%	63%
Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care	1,251	4%	10%	42%	44%
Assuming that a family qualifies for child care subsidies, the family should be allowed to use that subsidy to pay a relative to fulfill their child care needs	1,255	6%	7%	36%	52%
Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care	1,221	15%	31%	39%	15%
The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills	1,258	5%	10%	36%	49%
The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school	1,253	3%	6%	33%	57%

Figure 7.1 Opinions about Selected Child Care Issues


Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs
Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care
Children would be better off if a parent could stay home even if it negatively affected the family's finances
Finding child care is difficult because there are so few options to choose from
Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care
The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills
If a family qualifies for child care subsidies, they should be allowed to use it to pay a relative
The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school
Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care meets minimum quality standards
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%

There was no consensus on what the main goal of child care should be. Respondents agreed with both of the goals described in the survey with a slightly higher level of agreement that the main goal is to enable parents to go to work or school - 91% agreed compared with 85% who felt that the main goal was to help children develop social and learning skills.

Survey respondents are dominated by young persons, and young persons tend to have relatively high levels of completed education. Respondents also tend to be women because the survey respondent was the person most responsible for child care in the household. Asking the same opinion questions of the general population introduces a large percentage of older adults and men. Consequently one would expect different responses to the ten opinion questions[11]. Instead, Figure 7.2 shows that the general public seems to be largely in agreement with the parents who were surveyed.

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11 The question on difficulty finding child care arrangements was not asked of the general population.

The Saskatchewan population generally agrees with the same set of statements that respondents agreed with except that the level of agreement is not quite as strong – that is, they were more likely to "agree somewhat" than to "agree strongly". This is shown by comparing Figure 7.2 which shows the overall level of agreement and Figure 7.3 which shows the level of strong agreement.

Furthermore, with one exception, the level of strong agreement is in a similar order. The one exception was the question on whether children would be better off at home – "children would be better off if one of their parents could stay home to look after them even if it negatively affected the family's financial situation". The general public was more likely to agree – 77% agreed, 48% strongly – than the survey respondents among whom 75% agreed, 46% strongly.

There was also a somewhat higher level of agreement in the general population for the statement that "parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care" and somewhat less support for extending subsidies from low income to middle income parents.

Figure 7.2 Opinions About Selected Child Care Issues, Comparison with the General Population

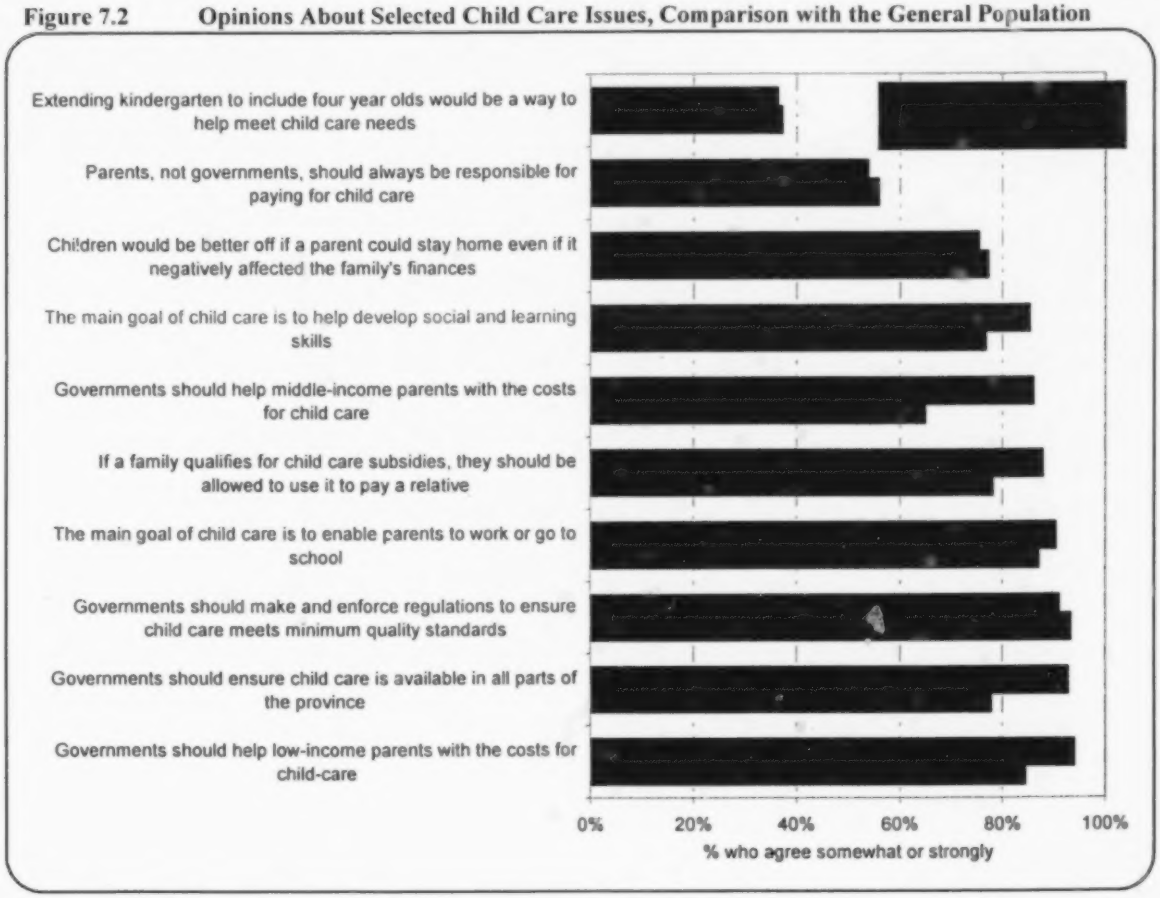
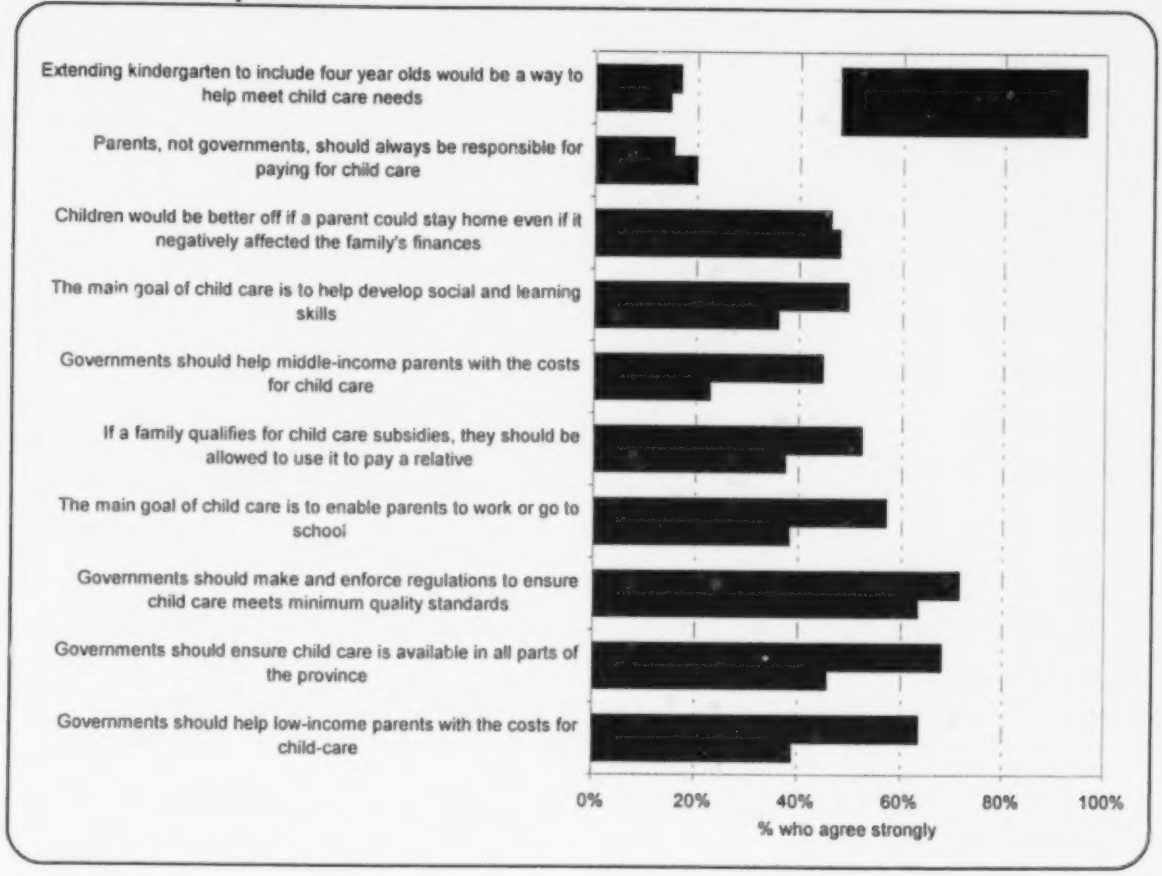

Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs
Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care
Children would be better off if a parent could stay home even if it negatively affected the family's finances
The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills
Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care
If a family qualifies for child care subsidies, they should be allowed to use it to pay a relative
The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care meets minimum quality standards
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province
Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
% who agree somewhat or strongly

Figure 7.3 **Strongly Held Opinions About Selected Child Care Issues, Comparison with the General Population**


Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs
Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care
Children would be better off if a parent could stay home even if it negatively affected the family's finances
The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills
Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care
If a family qualifies for child care subsidies, they should be allowed to use it to pay a relative
The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care meets minimum quality standards
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province
Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
% who agree strongly

To determine which opinions are held most strongly but which groups of parents, an analysis of each of the eleven opinions was undertaken. The analysis looked at sixteen demographic and labour market variables such as income, age, work schedule; current child care arrangements in ten categories; the amount of spending on child care; whether they had ever had difficulty finding suitable child care arrangements; whether child care issues were causing stress; and the characteristics of child care that were seen as the most important.

Using a clustering algorithm[12], subgroups of the population which were the least likely and the most likely to agree with each of the ten statements were determined. The differences among demographic subgroups are not particularly striking but they do provide some insights into respondent opinions about the main goals of child care and the role of government.

---

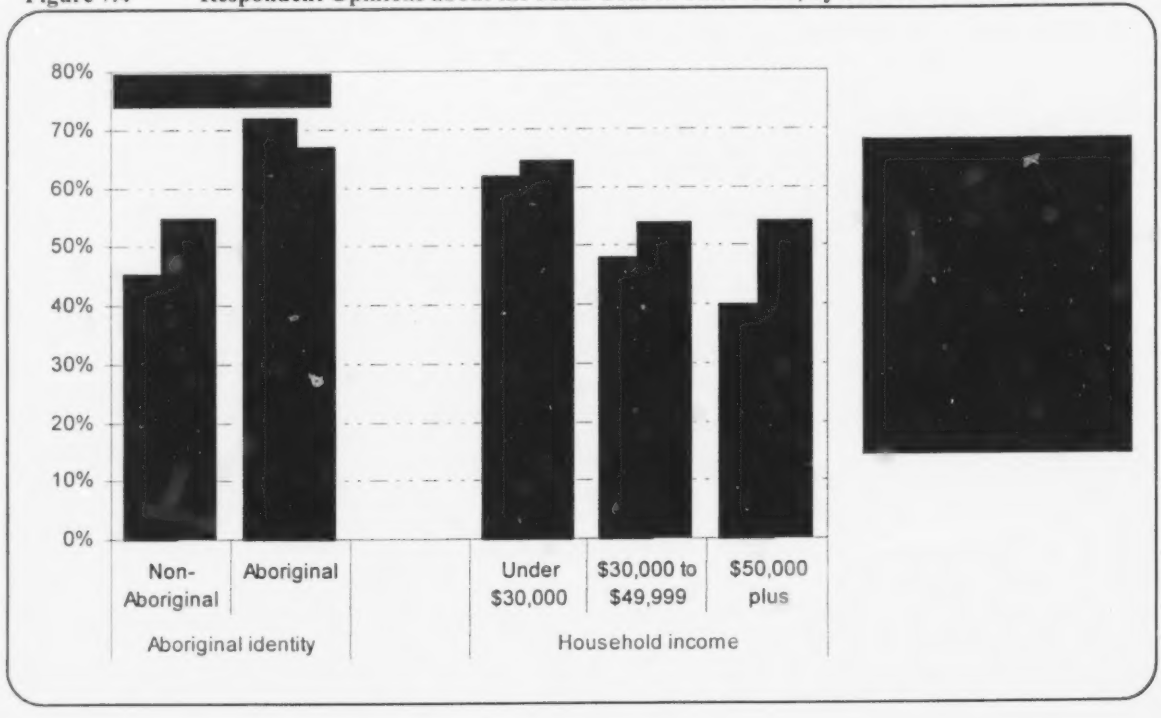
12 CHAID - Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection - Using Chi-square values, the algorithm successively divides the population into smaller and smaller subgroups with statistically significant variations in the target variable.

Main Goal of Child Care

Income level and Aboriginal identity are the two demographic and socioeconomic factors that have the most impact on opinions about the main goal of child care. Figure 7.4 shows that Aboriginal respondents were more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to see the main goal of child care as developmental rather than as a way to enable parents to work or go to school.

Respondents from households with higher levels of household income were more likely to see the main goal of child care as a way to enable parents to work or go to school.

Figure 7.4 Respondent Opinions about the Main Goal of Child Care, by Selected Characteristics



Role of Government

Three of the opinion questions relate to the general role of government in child care.

Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care.
Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province.
Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care meets minimum quality standards.

The respondent characteristics that most affect responses to these questions are:

the age of the respondent;
whether or not the household uses a licensed day care centre; and
household income.

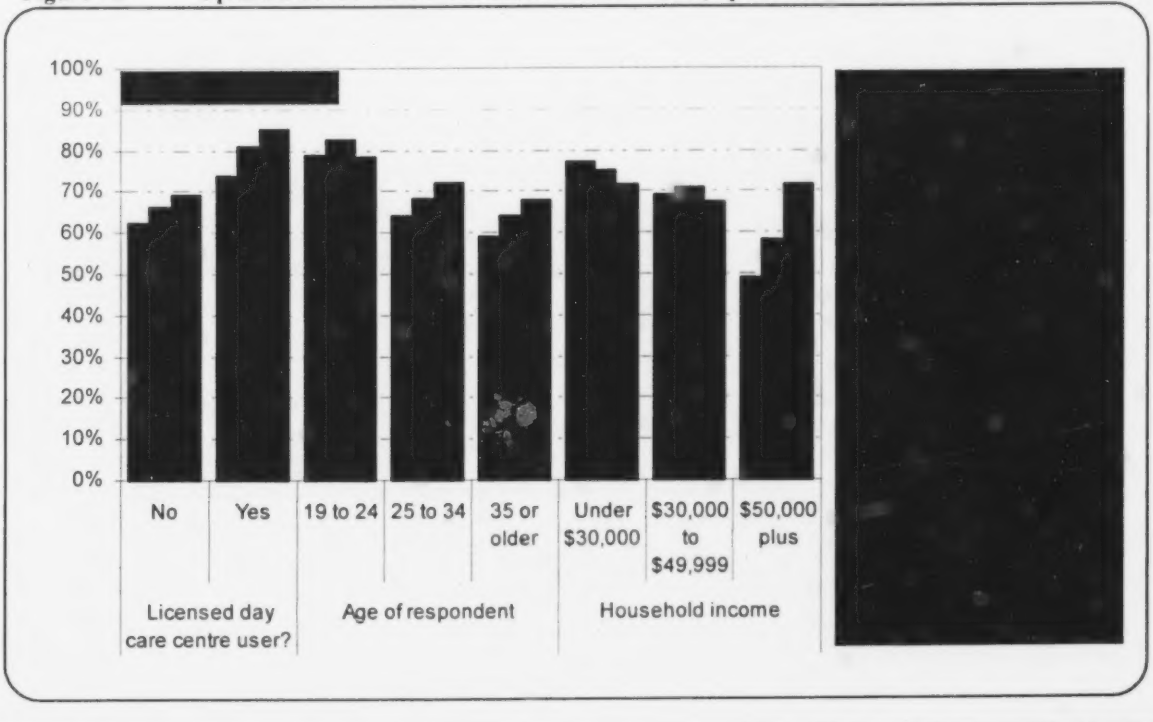
As with the other opinion questions, the differences among subgroups are not large.

For each of the three questions, users of licensed day care centres are more likely to agree that the government has a role (see Figure 7.5).

Those in younger age groups are also more likely to agree that the government has a role but the difference across age groups is most pronounced for the subsidy and availability roles. Household income has no effect on respondent opinions about the regulatory role but respondents from lower income households were more likely than those in higher income households to strongly agree that:

the government should help low-income parents with the costs for child-care and that governments should ensure that child care is available in all parts of the province.

Figure 7.5 Opinions about the General Role of Government, by Selected Characteristics



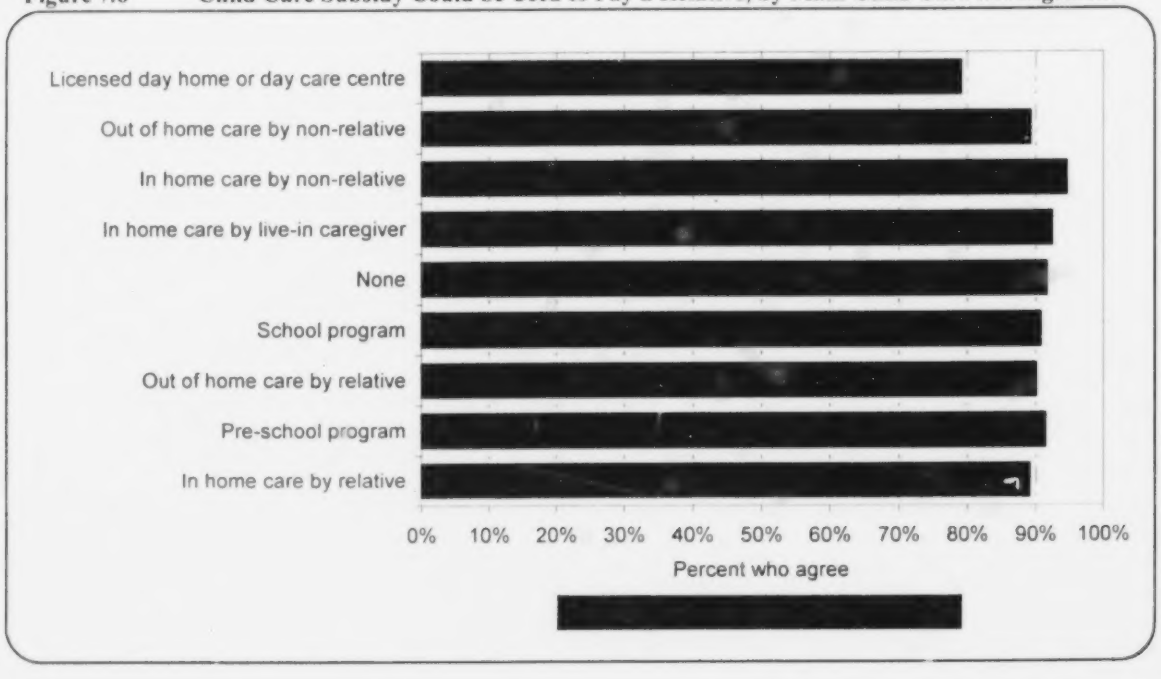
Subsidies

Besides the general question about whether governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child care, three other questions dealt with the issue of subsidies.

> Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care.
> Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care.
> If a family qualifies for child care subsidies, they should be allowed to use it to pay a relative

The ability to direct a subsidy to a relative is, not surprisingly, supported most strongly by those who currently use that kind of care as their main arrangement (see Section 3.10 for the derivation of the main arrangement). Nevertheless, Figure 7.6 shows that support is still high even among those who use licensed day care centres among whom 79% agree, 40% strongly. Among those who use other kinds of non-relative care, support for paying a subsidy to a relative is generally near or above 90%.

Figure 7.6 Child Care Subsidy Could be Used to Pay a Relative, by Main Child Care Arrangement



For the other two subsidy-related questions, the two characteristics have the most impact on responses are:

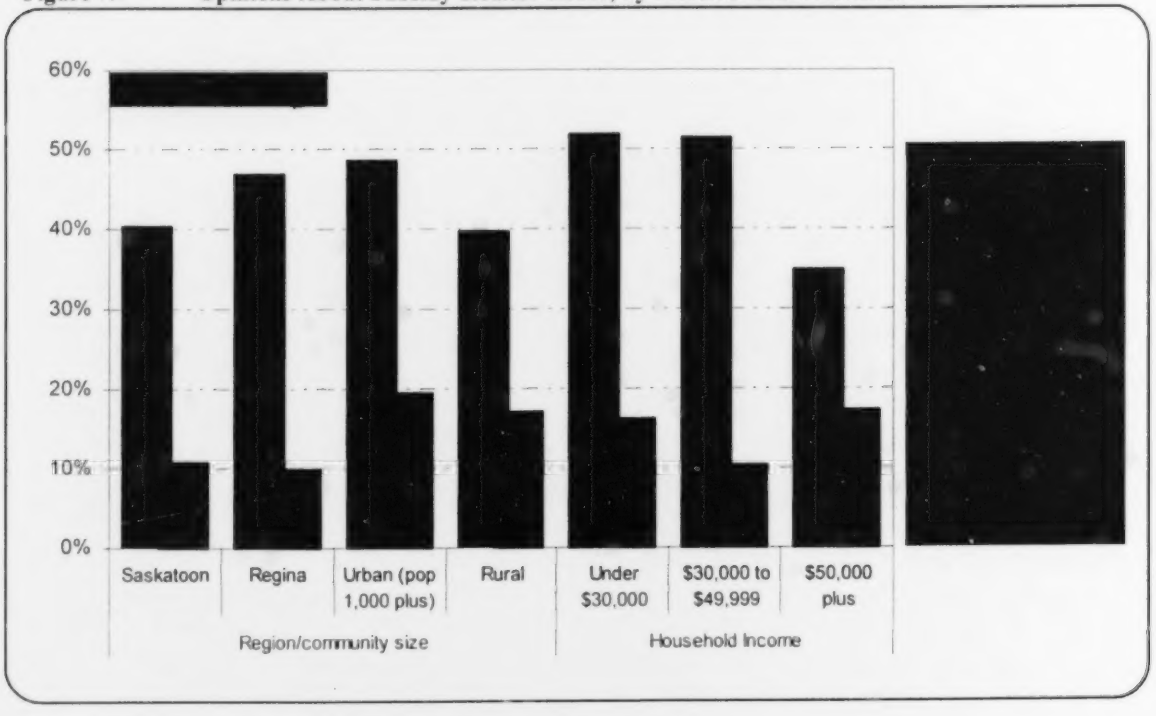
location within the province; and

household income.

Figure 7.7 shows that although support for the view that middle-income households could also receive a subsidy is widespread, it is highest among respondents in households with incomes under $50,000.

The view that parents rather than government should always be responsible for paying for child care is held most strongly by those in small urban (where 20% agree strongly) and rural areas (17% strongly agree).

Figure 7.7 Opinions About Subsidy-Related Issues, by Selected Characteristics

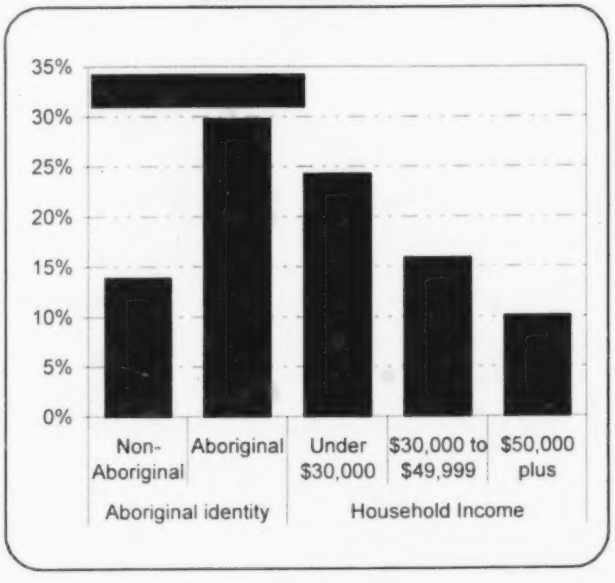


Other Issues

The remaining three questions do not have an over-arching theme and are dealt with separately because they have stronger support among separate subgroups of the population of respondents.

The concept of extending kindergarten to four-year olds was not supported by a majority of respondents – 37% agreed, 17% strongly. This statement enjoys a somewhat higher level of support among Aboriginal respondents and those with low income (see Figure 7.8) although the majority still do not agree with the statement.

Figure 7.8 **Extending Kindergarten to Four-Year Olds Would be a way to Help Meet Child Care Needs, by Selected Characteristics**

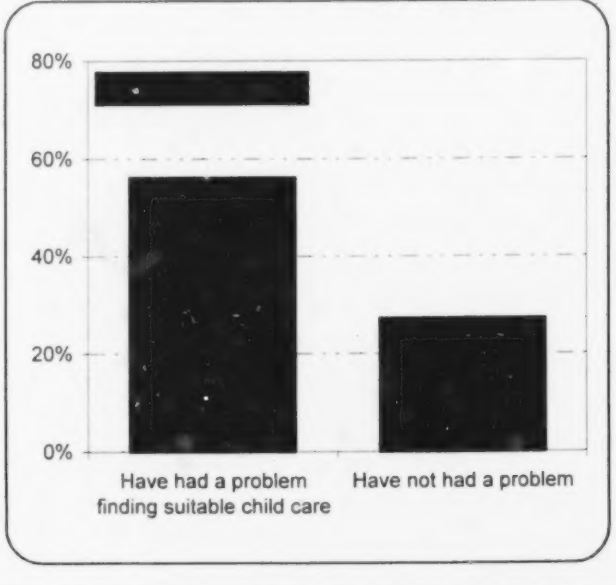


This is consistent with the view that a kindergarten arrangement might help a child develop social and learning skills (which Aboriginal and low-income respondents tend to support) but might also cause scheduling difficulties among those who work full-time.

Three quarters of respondents agreed with the statement that "finding the child care arrangement parents want is difficult because there are so few child care options to choose from".

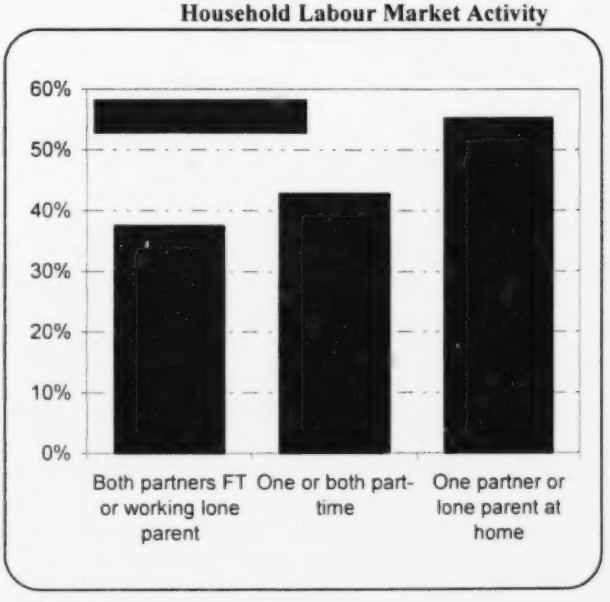
Those who strongly agree with this statement are relatively uniform among respondents but those who have had trouble finding a suitable child care arrangement are more likely to strongly agree with this statement than those who have not (see Figure 7.9).

Figure 7.9 **Finding Suitable Child Care is Difficult Because of a Lack of Options**



The other opinion question was "children would be better off if one of their parents could stay at home to look after them even if it negatively affected the family's financial situation". Note that this question is focussed on the welfare of the children rather than the welfare of the family.

Figure 7.10 **Children Would Be Better off if a Parent Could Stay Home Even if it Negatively Affected the Family's Finances, by Household Labour Market Activity**



Those who were most likely to agree with this statement tended to be the same respondents who preferred in-home care by a family member but this is simply a restatement of the opinion that children should be cared for by their parents. Demographically, there were no strong differences in responses - apparently this view is widely held by parents. Figure 7.9 does, however, show that respondents from households where both parents are regularly out of the home (two parents both working full-time, or a working lone parent) were less likely to agree strongly than respondents where a parent was at home.

7.2 Government Priority

After the series of general opinion questions, respondents were asked to identify which of three priority areas governments should pursue - "If governments had to choose how to promote quality child care, which of the following actions should be their first priority ....

providing subsidies to parents so they can choose the child care they want,
making sure that more quality child care is available in all parts of the province, or
inspecting and regulating child care facilities to make sure they are safe and properly staffed."

They were also given the opportunity of saying "none of these" or specifying something else. Almost all (99%) picked one of the three options.

There was no consensus on what should be government's first priority (see Table 7.2). Although this a slight preference for the inspection/regulation role, the split is almost in thirds.

Table 7.2 Priority Role for Government

	Count	Percent
Providing subsidies	415	33%
Improving availability	347	28%
Inspecting and regulating	489	39%
Total	1,250	100%

There are minor (and sometimes puzzling) differences among respondents according to their current child care arrangement.

Figure 7.12 shows that those who are least in favour of inspecting and regulating are those whose current main arrangement is in or out-of-home care by a non-relative. Those most in favour of the subsidy role are using in-home care by a non-relative and those least in favour are using in-home care by a live-in caregiver. Finally, those most in favour of improving availability are using out-of-home care by a non-relative.

There are other differences with respect to current child care use.

Those who spend more on child care are more likely to favour subsidies; 46% of those who spend $200 or more per week chose this option compared with 34% who spend no money.

Those who report no high levels of stress over child care are somewhat more likely to favour subsidies (36%) than those who report little or no stress (31%).

Those who have had trouble finding quality child care are less in favour of the inspecting and regulating role (29%) than those who have had no trouble (43%).

Figure 7.11 Priority Role for Government

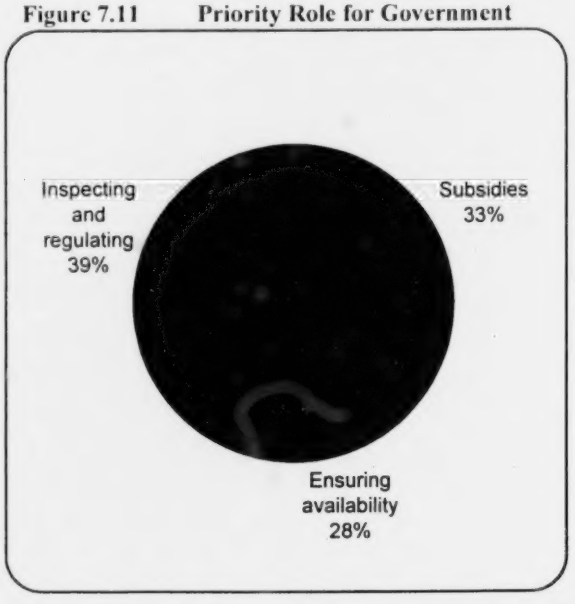
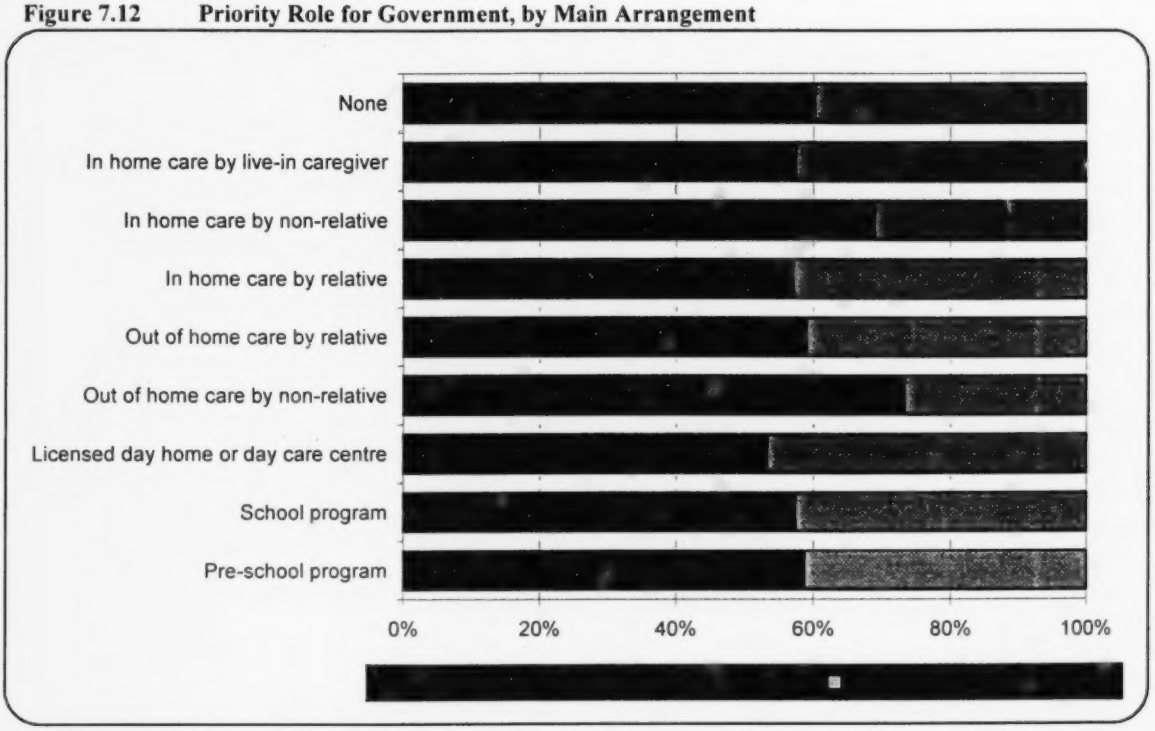


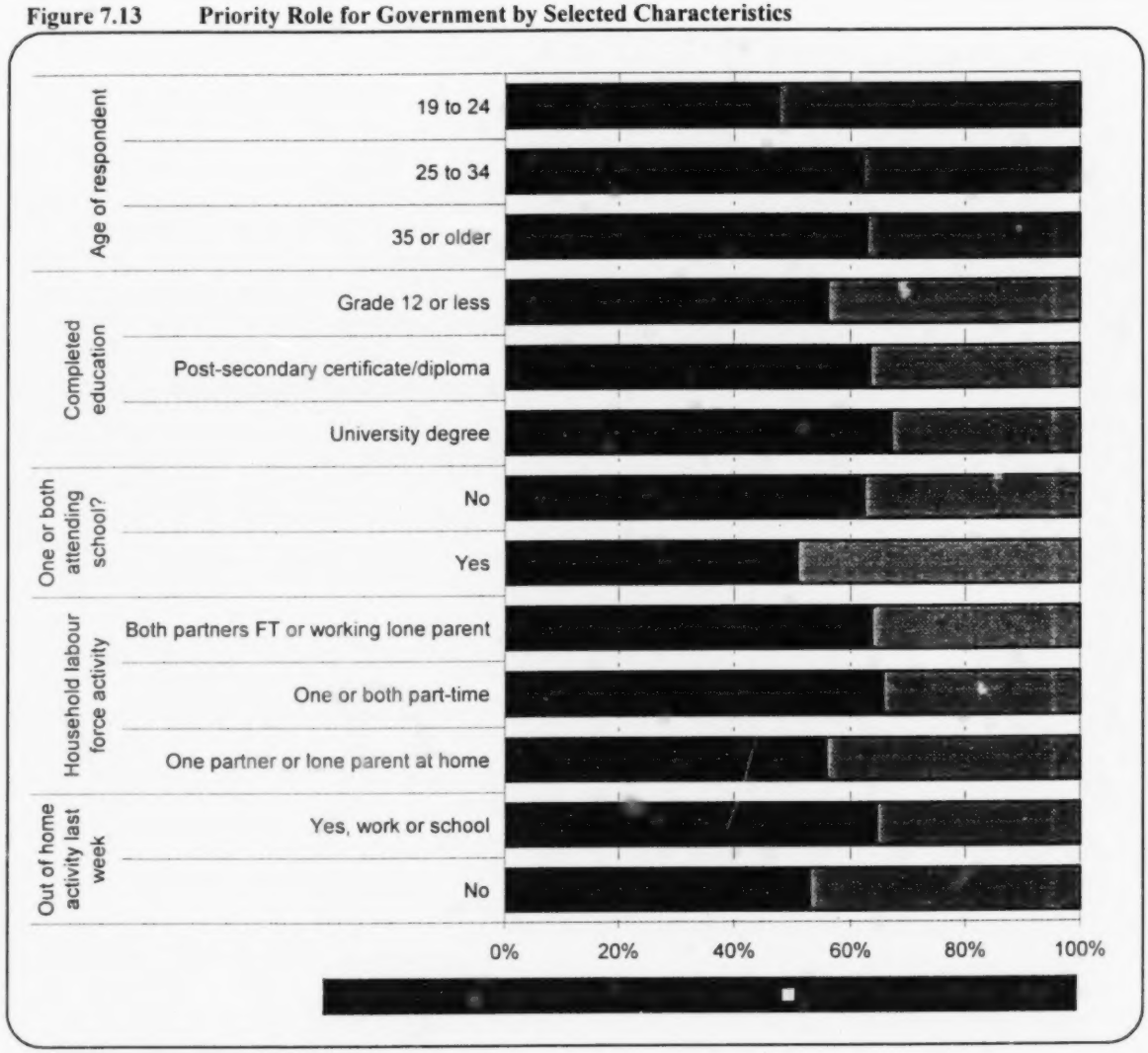
Figure 7.12 Priority Role for Government, by Main Arrangement



Some demographic characteristics affect opinions as well but these differences are also relatively minor. For example, younger respondents, those attending school, and those who are not regularly out of the home are more likely to favour the regulatory/inspection role and less likely to support the availability role. As education levels increase, support for ensuring child care is available throughout the province tends to increase.

Notwithstanding these minor differences, survey respondents remain basically divided in their opinions about the appropriate priority for government action. The responses do make it clear, however, that almost all agree the government's role is in one or all of these three areas.

Figure 7.13 Priority Role for Government by Selected Characteristics



Appendix A
Family Structures and the Labour Market in Saskatchewan

The demand for child care in the province is driven by two basic population characteristics:

- the number of children in the age group requiring child care, usually taken to be those under 13 years of age; and
- labour force participation rates, particularly among lone parents and women of child-bearing age.

This appendix looks at data describing these basic demographic and labour market patterns to provide context for the findings from the needs and preferences survey of parents.

Some general indications of the future demand for child care are presented in Section A.4.

A.1 Population Counts

There are a number of data sources for the absolute count of children under the age of thirteen in Saskatchewan as well as the number of households in which these children live.

Population of Children

The population of children under the age of thirteen can be estimated from Statistics Canada's population data. As of July 2000, there were 108,718 children under thirteen in the province, 18.4% of the total population - see Table 1.

As Figure 1 shows, the proportion of the population that is under thirteen is higher in Saskatchewan than in other provinces. Furthermore, Saskatchewan has an above-average proportion of children in each of the age groups:

3.7% are under 3 years of age compared with 3.3% nationally;
4.1% are 3 to 5 years of age compared with 3.7% nationally; and
10.6% are 6 to 12 years of age compared with 9.4% nationally.

Table 2 shows that, relative to most other provinces, a smaller proportion of Saskatchewan children live in large centres - Census Metropolitan Areas[1] or CMAs using Statistics Canada's terminology. Less than one half of young children (41%) live in CMAs compared with 62% in Canada as a whole. As a group the Atlantic provinces have the highest percentage of children living outside of the CMAs; Ontario has the lowest proportion.

Table 1 Population of Children by Province, 2000

	Total population	Number of Children				Percent of total population			
		Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 12	Total	Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 12	Total
Canada	30,750,087	1,023,232	1,149,572	2,884,076	5,056,880	3.3%	3.7%	9.4%	16.4%
Atlantic	2,375,345	71,918	79,713	212,804	364,435	3.0%	3.4%	9.0%	15.3%
Que	7,372,448	225,386	260,500	657,267	1,143,153	3.1%	3.5%	8.9%	15.5%
Ont	11,669,344	397,042	450,577	1,111,978	1,959,597	3.4%	3.9%	9.5%	16.8%
Man	1,147,880	43,163	47,043	117,149	207,355	3.8%	4.1%	10.2%	18.1%
Sask	1,023,636	38,280	41,673	108,718	188,671	3.7%	4.1%	10.6%	18.4%
Alta	2,997,236	114,658	120,635	302,958	538,251	3.8%	4.0%	10.1%	18.0%
BC	4,063,760	127,343	143,810	359,157	630,310	3.1%	3.5%	8.8%	15.5%

Source: Statistics Canada Annual Demographic Statistics 91-213

[1] Census Metropolitan Areas are large cities and their surrounding "bedroom" communities. In Saskatchewan the two CMAs are Regina and Saskatoon; in Alberta they are Calgary and Edmonton, in Manitoba only Winnipeg is a CMA.

Figure 1 Children as a Percentage of the Population, by Age Group, 2000

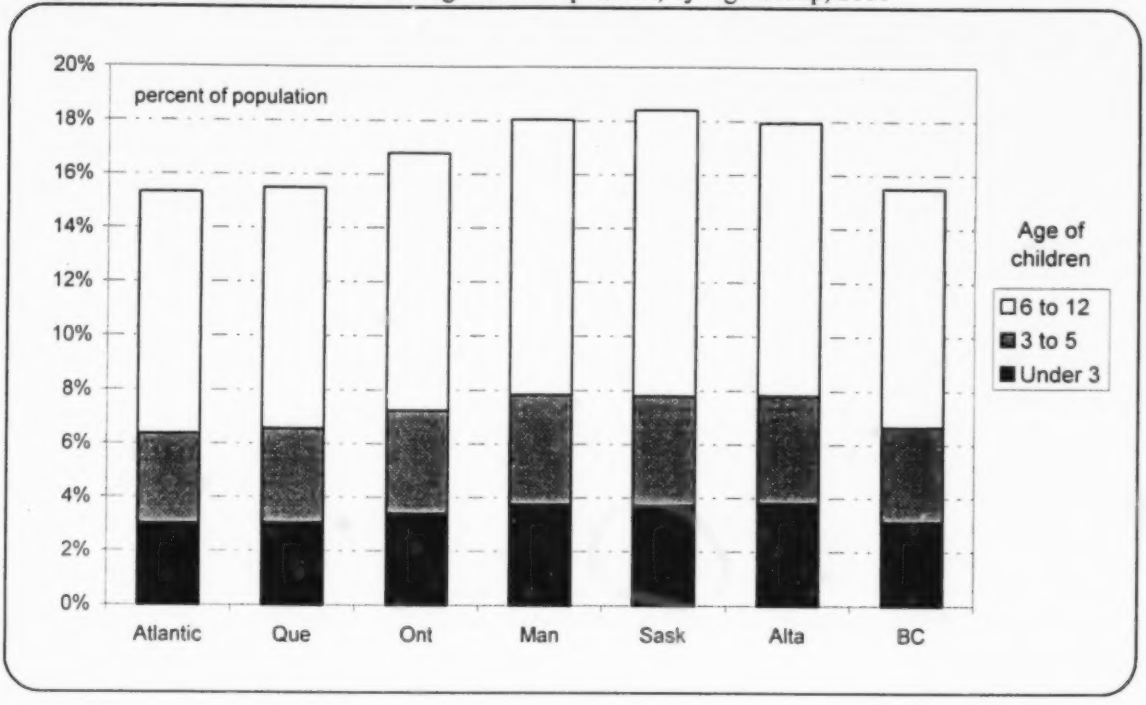


Table 2 Population of Children in Large Centres, by Province, 2000

	Population in Census Metropolitan Areas	Number of Children in Census Metropolitan Areas				Percent of total population			
		Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 12	Total	Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 12	Total
Canada	19,284,081	647,444	722,428	1,761,392	3,131,264	63%	63%	61%	62%
Atlantic	658,771	20,787	23,270	60,494	104,551	29%	29%	28%	29%
Que	4,882,861	153,713	175,717	430,398	759,828	68%	68%	66%	67%
Ont	8,364,779	291,467	327,001	785,242	1,403,710	73%	73%	71%	72%
Man	681,146	24,041	25,820	64,046	113,907	56%	55%	55%	55%
Sask	433,055	15,508	17,018	44,641	77,167	41%	41%	41%	41%
Alta	1,897,154	68,766	72,069	183,041	323,876	60%	60%	60%	60%
BC	2,366,315	73,162	81,533	193,530	348,225	57%	57%	54%	55%

Source: Statistics Canada Annual Demographic Statistics 91-213

The other source of information about the provincial population is Saskatchewan Health's "covered population" which measures the population with valid health insurance coverage. The population using this measure tends to fluctuate over a three-year period when periodic renewals of health cards introduces "corrections" into the file. The fluctuations tend to be larger during periods of high interprovincial out-migration from the province.

Figure 2 shows the covered population of children under thirteen in the province[2] over the past ten years. The population estimates from Statistics Canada and Saskatchewan Health are basically the same for 2000 – 188,700 for Statistics Canada and 186,600 for Saskatchewan Health.

Figure 2 "Covered" Population Under Thirteen, as of July 1st

2 Published information from Sask Health is based on five-year age intervals so the number of persons 10 to 12 years of age was assumed to be 60% of those 10 to 14 years of age.

Number of Families

Statistics Canada produces annual estimates of the number of census families[3] by the age group of the children and these data suggest there are approximately 100,000 families with children under thirteen years of age in the province. The figures in Table 3 show that, as of July 2000, there were an estimated 267,761 families in Saskatchewan. Of these approximately half (131,193) had children under 18 years of age and at least 102,000 families had children under the age of fifteen. Figure 3 shows that relative to families in other provinces, Saskatchewan has a similar proportion with young children (38%), higher than the Atlantic provinces but lower than in Alberta.

With a relatively high proportion of young children (Figure 1) and a relatively low proportion of families with young children (Figure 4), Saskatchewan has an above-average number of young children per family. (The other possibility – that Saskatchewan has a higher proportion of the population living in families rather than as unattached individuals – is known not to be the case.)

Table 3 Number of Census Families in Canada, Estimates as of July 2000

Family structure	Canada	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Total Families	8,194,349	665,934	1,996,902	3,112,598	298,480	267,761	792,314	1,060,360
With no children	2,833,536	227,769	677,861	1,032,402	105,027	100,834	283,197	406,446
With children	5,360,813	438,165	1,319,041	2,080,196	193,453	166,927	509,117	653,914
All children aged 18+	1,434,576	136,812	360,917	581,198	48,517	35,734	113,782	157,616
Children aged 18+ and at least one under 18	585,953	47,783	138,855	230,834	21,597	20,868	53,862	72,154
All children under 6 years	971,962	67,955	243,169	383,335	36,410	28,320	90,271	122,502
All children 6-14 years	1,056,163	88,476	240,395	402,466	38,085	31,893	114,513	140,335
All children 15-17 years	249,314	21,117	83,283	75,916	7,773	8,383	23,264	29,579
Children under 6 years and 6-14 years	619,723	42,309	151,450	244,336	24,587	22,270	62,693	72,078
Children under 6 years and 15-17 years	17,861	1,304	4,484	7,014	502	628	1,914	2,015
Children 6-14 years and 15-17 years	387,524	30,018	87,728	141,230	14,166	16,887	44,295	53,200
Children under 6, 6-14, and 15-17 years	37,737	2,391	8,760	13,867	1,816	1,944	4,523	4,436
Total with all children under 18	3,340,284	253,570	819,269	1,268,164	123,339	110,325	341,473	424,144

Source: Statistics Canada Annual Demographic Statistics, 91-213

[3] A Census Family refers to a now-married couple (with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (again with or without never-married sons and/or daughters of either or both partners), or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one never-married son or daughter living in the same dwelling. The number of households is less than the number of families because some households will have more than one census family.

Figure 3 Percent of Families with Children Under 15 Years of Age, 2000

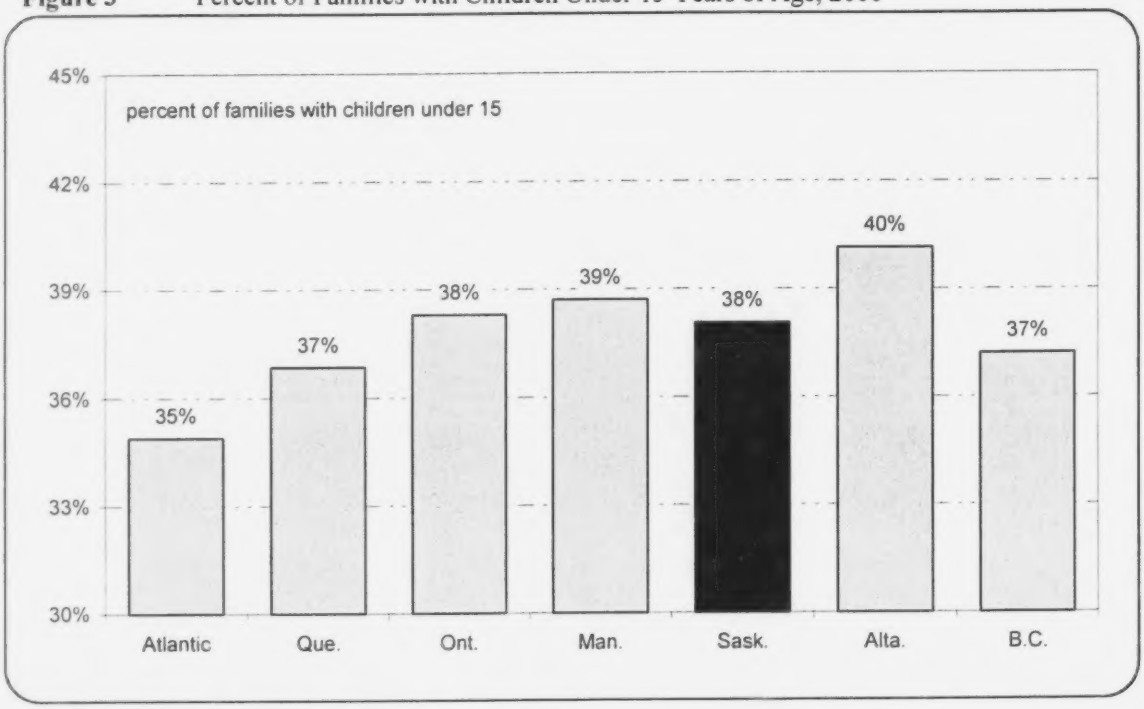
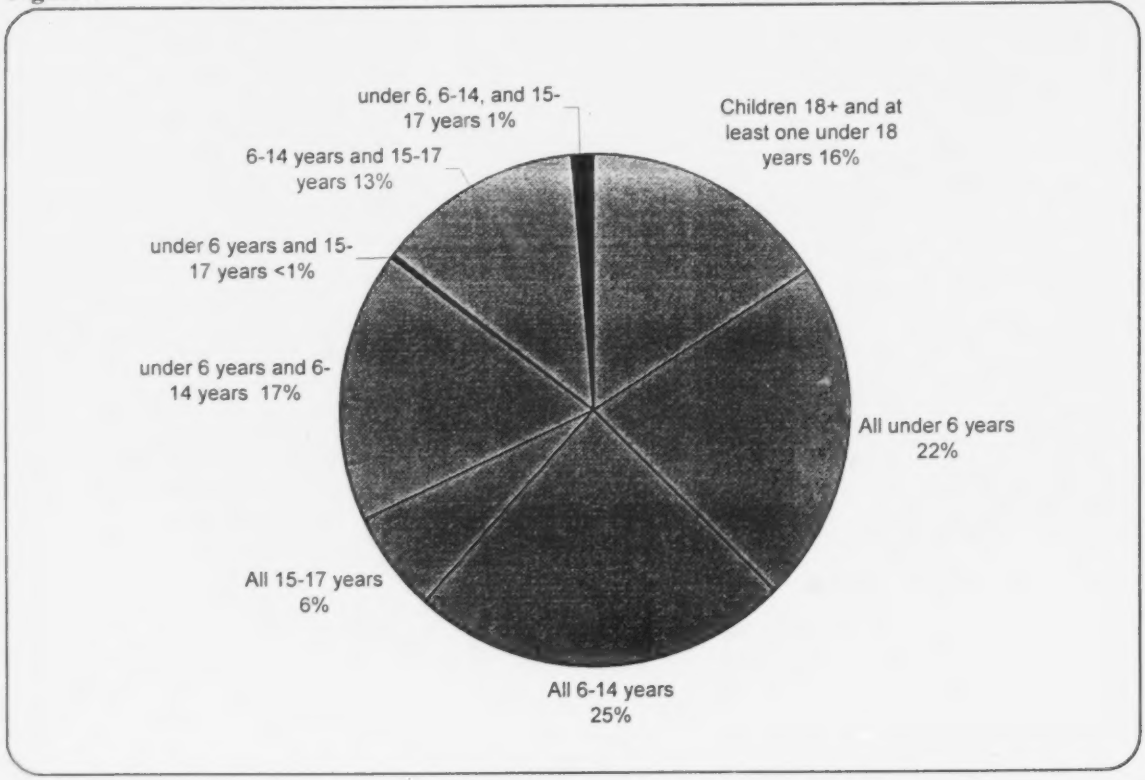


Figure 4 Saskatchewan Families with Never-Married Children at Home, by Age of Children, 2000


under 6, 6-14, and 15-17 years 1%
Children 18+ and at least one under 18 years 16%
6-14 years and 15-17 years 13%
under 6 years and 15-17 years <1%
under 6 years and 6-14 years 17%
All under 6 years 22%
All 15-17 years 6%
All 6-14 years 25%

A.2 Labour Market Participation

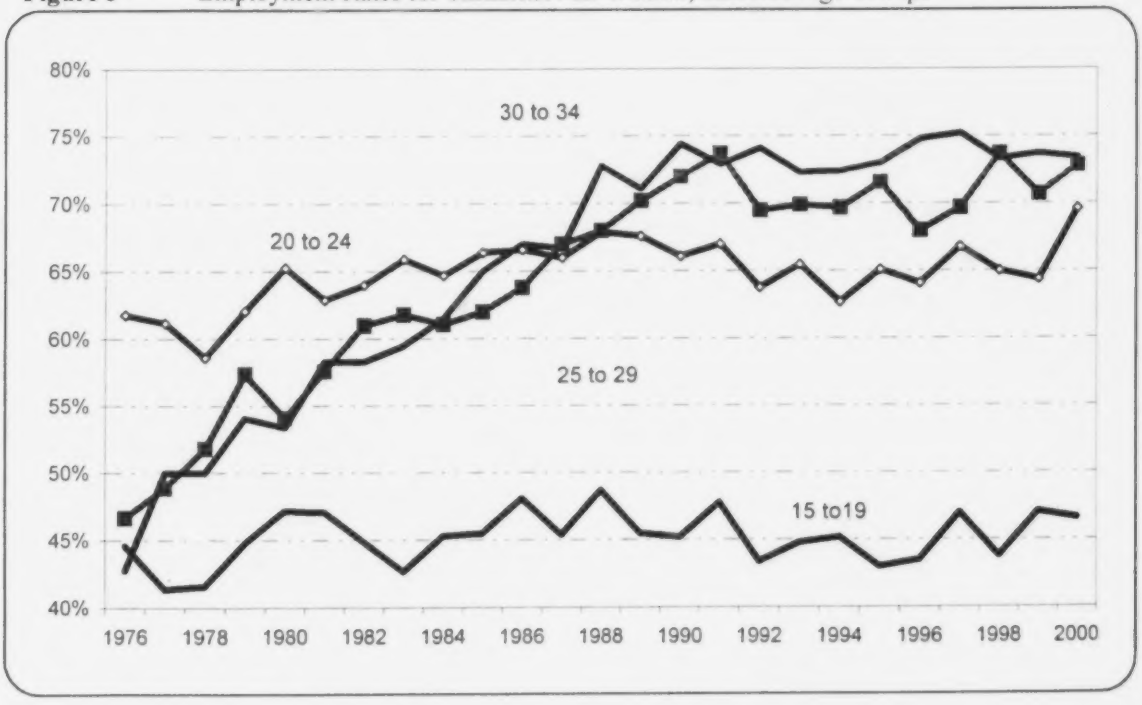
Labour market data are available from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, a monthly telephone survey of Saskatchewan households off-Reserve[4]. In this section, the employment rate is used as the best indicator of labour market participation. The employment rate, sometimes called the employment-to-population ratio, is the percentage of the population that is employed, either self-employed or as a paid worker, on a full-time or part-time basis.

Employment rates among women in the child-bearing age groups have been increasing in Saskatchewan as they have in other provinces. Figure 5 shows that the rate has increased significantly over the past twenty-five years among women 25 to 34 years of age. The increase was most pronounced during the 1975 to 1990 period; rates have since leveled off just below 75%.

Employment rates for women under 25 have not increased over the period, at least partly because more women in this age group are attending school.

Employment rates depend on both the age of the child and on the family structure. Figure 6 shows employment rates for women in husband-wife families where the husband is employed. While rates are rising for all such women, they are consistently higher among women with no children or only children over the age of six and lower for those whose youngest child is under 3 years of age.

Figure 5 Employment Rates for Saskatchewan Women, Selected Age Groups



[4] Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2000 CDROM - 71F004XCB

Figure 6 Employment Rates for Women in Husband-Wife Families Where the Husband is Employed, Saskatchewan

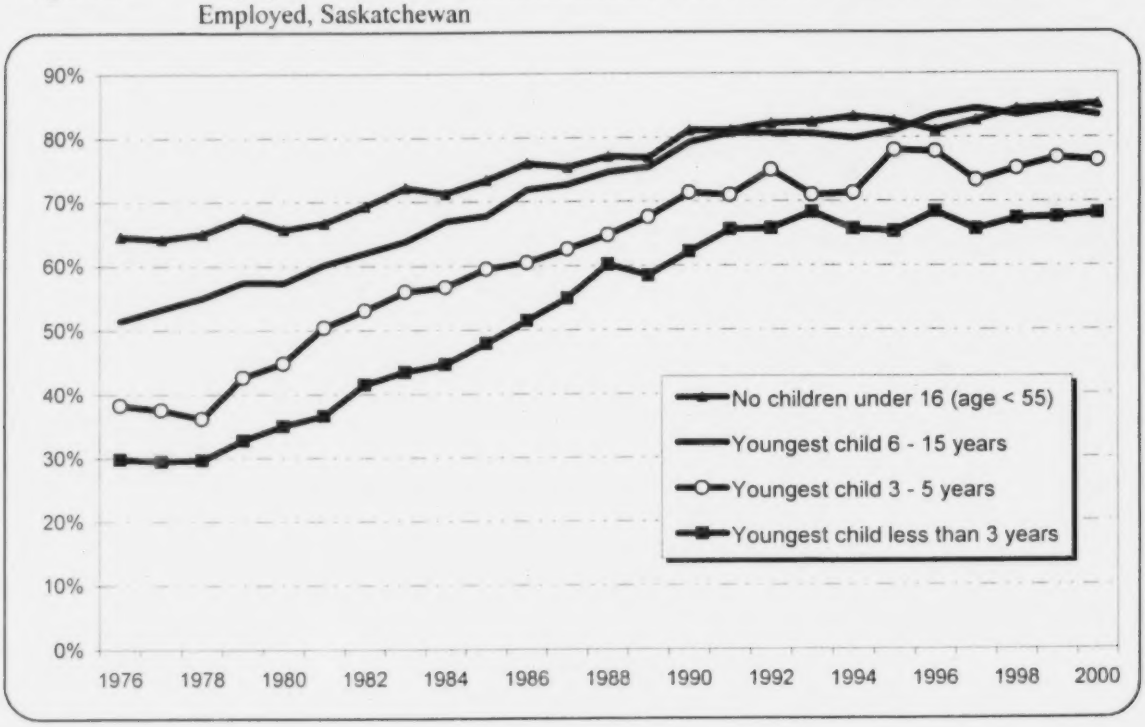


Figure 7 Employment Rates for Women who are Lone Parents, Saskatchewan

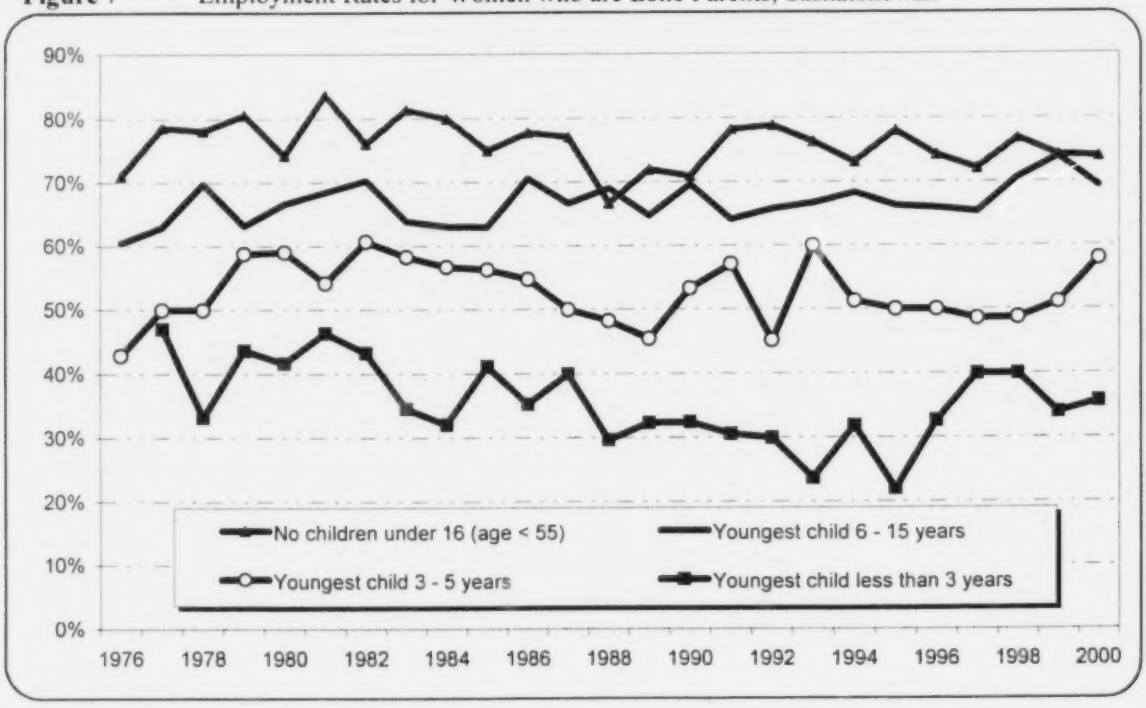
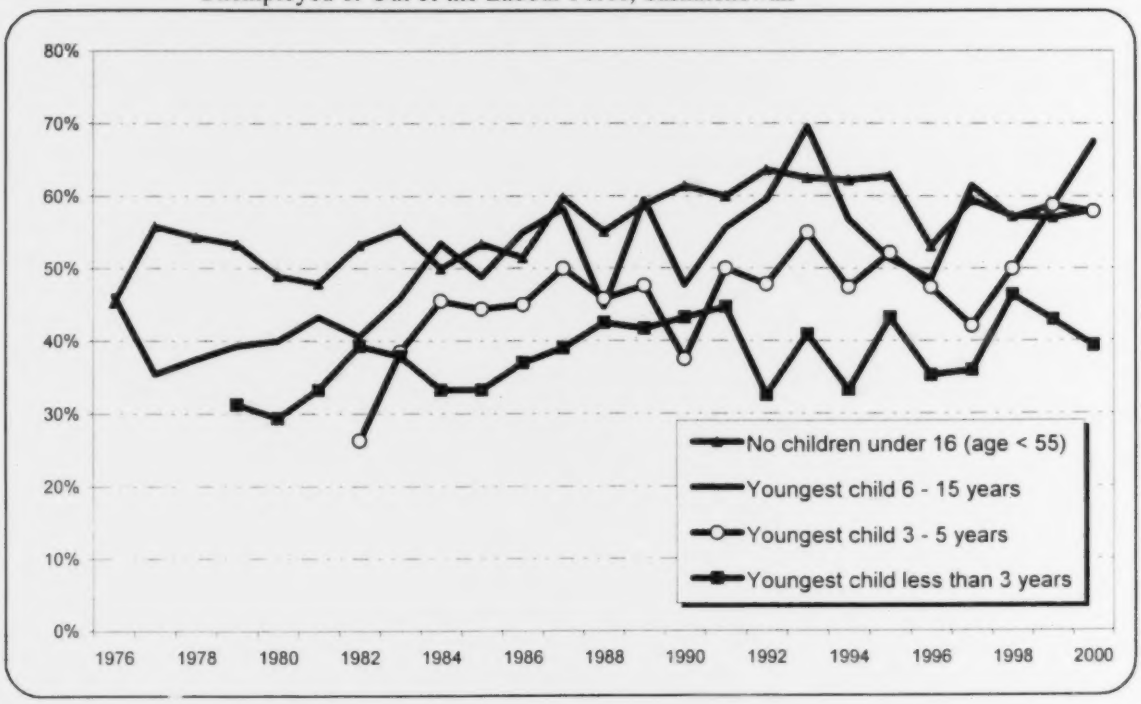


Figure 8 Employment Rates for Women in Husband-Wife Families where the Husband is Unemployed or Out of the Labour Force, Saskatchewan



The same dependency on the age of the child is evident among lone parents (see Figure 7) but unlike women in husband-wife families, the rates show no upward trend over the past twenty-five years. Women who are the head of lone parent families are as likely to be working in the year 2000 as they were in the mid 1970s.

For women in husband-wife families where the husband is out of the labour force or unemployed, the picture is similar to the situation for lone parents. Employment rates tend to be higher among those with older children or no children at all. There is some evidence of an upward trend in employment rates for women with children three years or older but any increase is much less dramatic than the increase among women with a husband in the labour force.

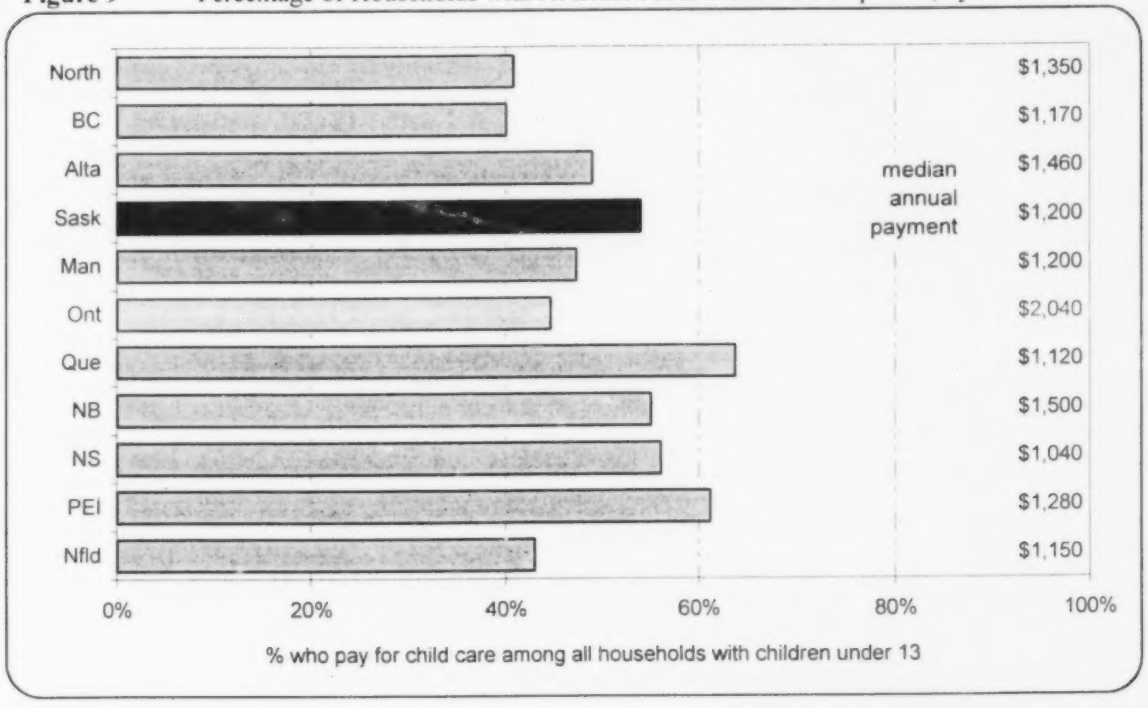
A.3 Spending on Child Care

The Survey of Household Spending[5] is an annual Statistics Canada survey that is based on the Labour Force Survey frame and so excludes residents of Indian Reserves. The survey has a sample size of 1,440 in Saskatchewan. In 1999, the survey estimated that there were 93,500 Saskatchewan households with at least one child under the age of thirteen; 51,000 with at least one child under the age of six. Included in the list of expenditures surveyed is the amount that the household spends on child care. Survey respondents were asked to include day-care fees as well as child care in and out of the home[6]. Child care expenses will include, therefore, the cost of casual babysitting as well as the cost of more formal child care arrangements.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of the 93,500 households that spend at least some money on child care and the median annual amount paid among those who pay at least some money for child care. The median is the midpoint in a range of expenditures, representing the point at which one half pay more and one half pay less. Unlike the average expenditure, the median expenditure is not skewed by a few very large expenditures.

Saskatchewan households are as likely as others to pay for child care – 54% of those with young children pay at least something for child care over the course of a year. The amount paid is, however, relatively

Figure 9 Percentage of Households with At Least Some Child Care Expenses, by Province



5 These data were derived from microdata from the 1999 Survey of Household Spending. All calculations on these microdata were prepared by QED Information Systems Inc. and the responsibility for the use and interpretation of these data is entirely with the author.

6 Respondents were asked to record expenditures on a) day care centres, b) other child care outside the home (excluding children's camps, e.g. day camps and summer camps), and c) child care in the home.

low. The median annual payment is $1,200 compared with, for example, $1,460 in Alberta and $2,040 in Ontario. On an aggregate basis, child care expenditures in Saskatchewan are just over $100 million per year.

Figures 10 through 12 show that child care payments vary by community size, household income, family type, and the age of the children.

Figure 10 shows that the more urban the centre, the more likely the household is to pay for child care and the higher the amount.

Figure 11 shows that the incidence of paid child care does not rise with household income but the amount of the payment increases significantly.

Figure 12 shows that the amount of the payment is higher and the incidence of paid child care is much higher for households with pre-school aged children.

Figure 10 Child Care Payments by Location, Saskatchewan, 1999

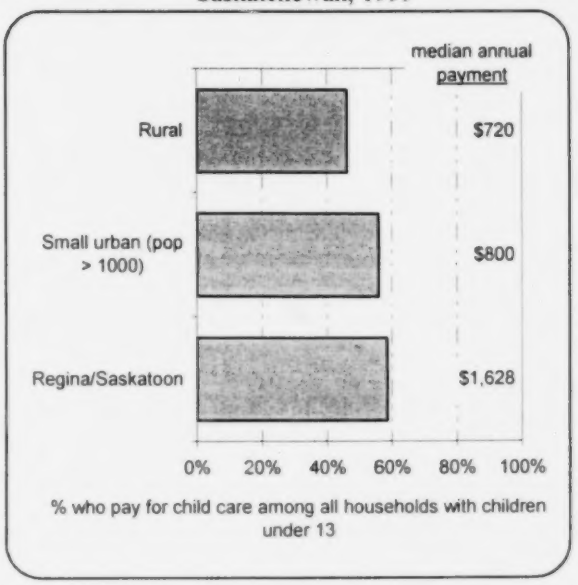


Figure 11 Child Care Payments by Household Income, Saskatchewan, 1999

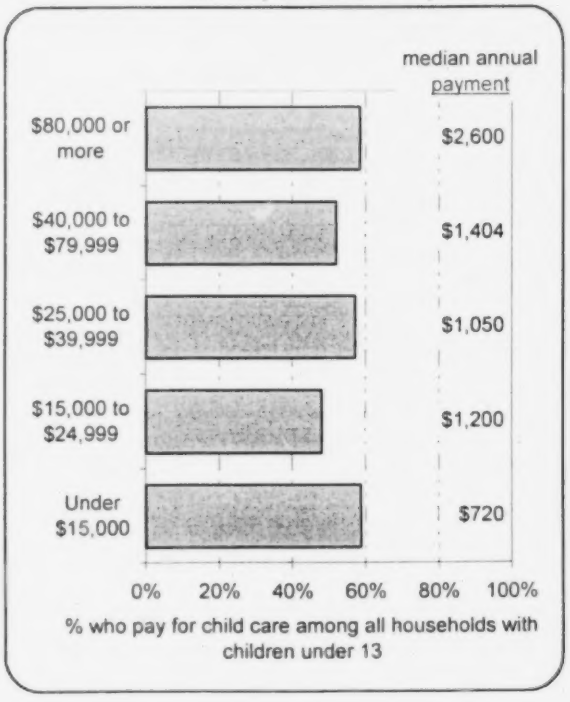
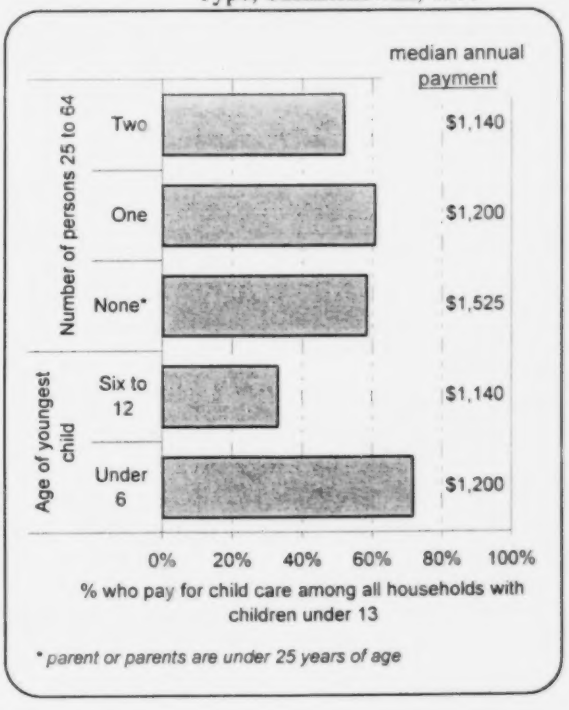


Figure 12 Child Care Payments by Family Type, Saskatchewan, 1999



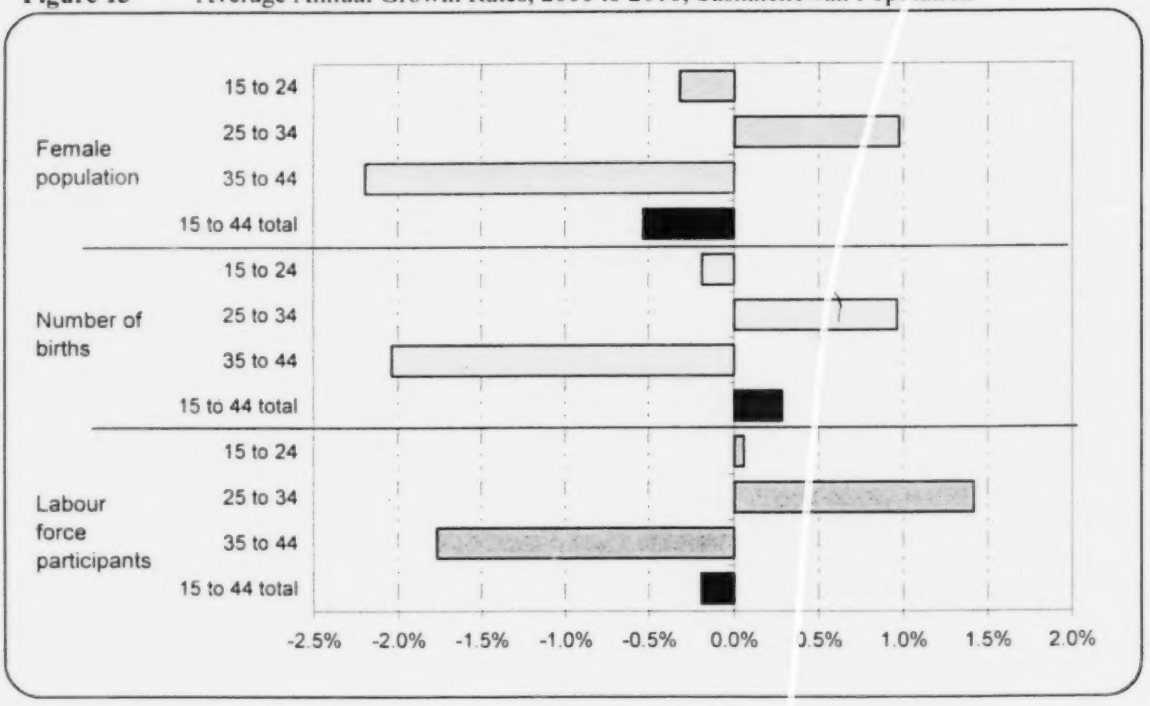
A.4 Indicators of Future Demand

The Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training has published a population forecast for the province that examines long-term trends in labour market participation rates[7]. That study has examined and quantified several trends.

> Even with a relatively optimistic inter-provincial migration assumption, the provincial population will grow by an average of only 0.2% per year over the next twenty years. This increase is entirely due to growth in the Registered Indian population.
>
> The size of the non-Indian labour force will begin to decline sharply within the next ten years, even with higher labour force participation rates.
>
> With increased participation rates in the Registered Indian population, the provincial labour force will grow for ten to fifteen years and then level off.
>
> The implications of a constant or declining labour force are significant and far-reaching. The labour market will begin to tighten and there will be more frequent shortages in specific occupations (e.g. child care workers) and occupational mobility and post-secondary education will be increasingly important.

Over the next ten years, the demographic structure of the population will change in significant ways. The population of women in the 25 to 34 age group will increase at approximately 1% per year. With constant fertility rates that will mean a similar increase in the number of births for women in this age group. The increase will be offset to some extent by a decline in the number of births to women in the 35 to 44 age group as this population declines in size.

Figure 13 Average Annual Growth Rates, 2000 to 2010, Saskatchewan Population



[7] *Saskatchewan Labour Market Trends*, January 2000

These trends suggest that the overall demand for child care will grow slowly, if at all, for the next ten years. This is largely because of a projected decline in the absolute size of the population of women in the child-bearing age groups.

We can, however, expect a shift in the kind of child care needed over the next ten years.

Relatively more child care will be needed for young children because the population and labour force participation rates of women 25 to 34 years of age will increase. Offsetting this will be a decline in the demand for child care for school-aged children, i.e. children of women in the 35 to 44 age group.

Part of the reason for the assumed slow growth in labour force participation rates is an expectation that an increasing proportion of women will be attending post-secondary education institutions. So more child care will be needed for parents attending post-secondary education institutions relative to child care for parents at work.

More child care will be needed for Aboriginal women. Much of the growth in the population 25 to 34 years of age will be among Aboriginal women.

Appendix B
Survey Instrument

SCREENING SECTION A

A1. *Verification of phone number, have* reached a home rather *than a business*, ask *to speak to an adult, etc.* (USE REGULAR LEAD-IN SCRIPT)

A2. Good afternoon/evening. My name is (_____) of the Environics Research Group Ltd. We have been hired by the Saskatchewan government to conduct a survey of current child care arrangements and needs and preferences for child care.

Your phone number has been randomly selected for this survey. Please be assured that we are not selling or soliciting anything. Your opinion is important to us and your responses will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous.

Do you or does anyone in your household work for any of the following types of organizations: an advertising or market research firm, the media, or a federal or provincial elected official?

Yes (THANK AND TERMINATE)
No (CONTINUE)

A3. Because this is a survey of child care, we are particularly interested in talking with households in which there are young children. Are there any children under thirteen years of age who normally live in your home?

Yes 1
No 2

A4. Do you [also] use your home to provide care for children [other than your own] under thirteen as a business and for which you are paid?

Yes 1
No ..... 2 IF A3=2, THANK AND EXIT, ELSE A6

A5. Was your decision to set up a child care business a way to support your family while looking after your own children?

Yes 1
No 2

IF A3=2 ASK PERMISSION TO CONDUCT FOLLOW UP SURVEY; THANK AND EXIT.

A6. Who in the household would be most responsible for making child care arrangements?

Respondent ..... 1 CONTINUE WITH SECTION B
Someone else ..... 2 ASK TO INTERVIEW OR SET UP FOLLOW UP INTERVIEW IF NOT AVAILABLE

The survey will take twenty to thirty minutes depending on your child care arrangements. Is now a good time to do the survey? (IF NEW PERSON REPEAT A2 THEN SKIP TO B.)

PRELIMINARY DEMOGRAPHICS - SECTION B

B1. Before we start, I would like to get an idea about the adults and children in the household and how they are related. Can we start with yourself?

Yes
Hesitates (IF RESPONDENT HESITATES – REMIND THEM THAT RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS – THE INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY – RESPONSES WILL BE AGGREGATED / COMBINED IN THE REPORT – CAN USE INITIALS IF THEY PREFER)
No REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SURVEY – SASKATCHEWAN GOV'T WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, YOUR CHILD CARE NEEDS AND PREFERENCES – INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. REITERATE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF RESPONSES IF STILL NO – THANK AND TERMINATE]

B2. What is your [first name/initials]?

Specify _____

B3. Gender (observation)

Male
Female

B4. How old are you?

Specify_____

B5. How many other people normally live in your household, not including yourself?

Specify . . . . . _____ [USE TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF LOOPS FOR FAMILY MEMBER QUESTIONS.]

B6. Now I'd like to find out the same information about the other [insert number] people who live in your household, starting with the youngest. What is the youngest person's [name/initials]?

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: Respondent should give name/age of a child FIRST]

Specify _____

B7. How old is [name/initials]? **(IF LESS THAN 2 YEARS OLD, SPECIFY MONTHS)**

Specify_____

B8. What is [name/initials] relationship to you?

Child
Spouse (husband/wife)
Partner
Parent
Sibling
Other relative (aunt, uncle, cousin, in-law, etc.)
Other

B9. What [is the name/ are the initials] of the next youngest person who normally lives in your household?

Specify_____

B10. How old is [name/initials]? **(IF LESS THAN 2 YEARS OLD, SPECIFY MONTHS)**

Specify_____

B11. What is [name/initials] relationship to you?

Child
Spouse (husband/wife)
Partner
Parent
Sibling
Other relative (aunt, uncle, cousin, in-law, etc.)
Other

[REPEAT B9 THROUGH B11 UNTIL HAVE THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY LIVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD.]

B12. Before we move on, I would just like to confirm that I have recorded this information correctly. There are [insert number] people, including yourself, who normally live in your household.

Yes
No [REVIEW RESULTS]

B13. There are [insert number] children in the household under the age of three.
There are [insert number] children in the household between the ages of 3 and 5 years of age.
There are [insert number] children in the household between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age
There are [insert number] children in the household between the ages of 13 and 18 years of age
There are [insert number] adults in the household including yourself.

1 – Yes, correct
2 – No [REVIEW RESULTS]

B18. Do any of the children have a long-term condition, health problem, or special need that limits their abilities at school or home? [NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: The definition of 'Special needs" is a physical or mental disability that limits a person's abilities in school or at home]

Yes 1
No ..... 2 [SKIP TO SECTION C]

B19. **(IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD)** Which child is that?

Specify_____

OUT OF HOME ACTIVITIES - SECTION C

C1. Before we ask about your arrangements for child care, we would like to ask you about work and school activities during the past week, that is, the period from Monday to Sunday. Thinking only of regular activities last week, were you...

Employed, or	1	SKIP TO C2
Attending school, college, or university?	2	SKIP TO C8
Both	3	SKIP TO C2
None of the above	4	SKIP TO C11
On maternity/paternity leave	5	SKIP TO C11

[redacted]

C2. Did you work at more than one paid job last week?

Yes	1	PREPARE FOR REPEAT
No	2	

C2i. **(IF C2=Yes)** How many paid jobs did you work at last week?

2 – Two
3 – Three
4 – More than three

C3. Do you have to travel to work or is this a home-based business?

Travel to work	1
Home-based	2
No fixed workplace	3

C4. In what type of business, service or industry was this?. (PRE-CODED OPEN_END)

Industry _____

1. Agriculture/farming
2. Other Resources (Forestry, Fishing, Trapping, Mining, Oil/Gas, Water and Electric Utilities)
3. Manufacturing
4. Construction
5. Transportation
6. Wholesale and retail trade
7. Finance, insurance, real estate
8. Professional, technical services, building management, head offices
9. Health and social services
10. Education services
11. Accommodation and food services
12. Information, culture, recreation
13. Other services (personal, household, membership organizations)
14. Public administration (federal/provincial/local/First Nation)

C5. Is this job...

Full time	1
Permanent part time	2
Temporary part time	3
Casual, or	4
Contract?	5

C6. How many hours did you work at this job last week?

Under'10	1
10 to 19	2
20 to 29	3
30 to 40	4
41 or more	5

C7. Does the job normally involve...

Monday to Friday (days)	1
Working evening or nights	2
Weekends, or	3
Irregular hours?	4
(none of these)	5

[REPEAT C3 TO C7 FOR SECOND AND THIRD JOBS IF NECESSARY – WHEN FINISHED CAPTURING JOB INFORMATION SKIP TO C11.]

[redacted]

C8. Were you enrolled as a full time or part time student?

Full time	1
Part time	2

C9. What kind of educational institution do you attend?

High school	1
Technical institute or regional college	2
University	3
Trades or private vocational college	4
Other	9

C10. Do your courses normally involve...

Monday to Friday (days)	1
Working evening or nights	2
Weekends, or	3
Irregular hours?	4
(none of these)	5

[CONTINUE TO C11]

[redacted]

C11. And for your [spouse /partner], thinking again of regular activities during the past week. Was [he /she]

Employed, or	1	SKIP TO C12
Attending school, college, or university?	2	SKIP TO C18
Both	3	SKIP TO C12
None of the above	4	SKIP TO SECTION D
On maternity/paternity leave	5	SKIP TO SECTION D

[redacted]

C12. Did [he /she] work at more than one job?

Yes	1	PREPARE FOR REPEAT
No	2	

C12i **(IF C12=Yes)** How many paid jobs did he/she work at last week?

2 – Two
3 – Three
4 – More than three

C13. Does [he/she] have to travel to work or is this a home-based business?

Travel to work	1
Home-based	2
No fixed workplace	3

C14. In what type of business, service or industry was this [his/her main job]. (PRE_CODED OPEN END)

1. Agriculture/farming
2. Other Resources (Forestry, Fishing, Trapping, Mining, Oil/Gas, Water and Electric Utilities)
3. Manufacturing
4. Construction
5. Transportation
6. Wholesale and retail trade
7. Finance, insurance, real estate
8. Professional, technical services, building management, head offices
9. Health and social services
10. Education services
11. Accommodation and food services
12. Information, culture, recreation
13. Other services (personal, household, membership organizations)
14. Public administration (federal/provincial/local/First Nation)

C15. Is this job...

Full time	1
Permanent part time	2
Temporary part time	3
Casual	4
Contract	5

C16. How many hours did [he/she] work at this job last week?

Under10	1
10 to 19	2
20 to 29	3
30 to 40	4
41 or more	5

C17. Does the job normally involve

Monday to Friday (days)	1
Working evening or nights	2
Working weekends	3
Working irregular hours	4
(none of these)	5

[REPEAT C12 TO C17 FOR NEXT JOB IF NECESSARY - WHEN FINISHED CAPTURING JOB INFORMATION SKIP TO D1]

C20. Was [he/she] enrolled as a full time or part time student?

Full time	1
Part time	2

C21. What kind of educational institution did [he/she] attend?

High school	1
Technical institute or community college	2
University	3
Trades or vocational college	4
Other	9

C22. Do these courses normally involve...

Monday to Friday (days)	1
Working evening or nights	2
Weekends, or	3
Irregular hours?	4
(none of these)	5

SKIP TO D1

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS - SECTION D

[redacted]

D1. So you are not regularly out of the house to go to work or school. Is this because you have chosen to stay at home to care for your children?

Yes	1	skip to D3
Partly	2	
No	3	

D2. What is the main reason then, that you are at home regularly? (PRECODED OPEN-END)

Without work / looking for work	1
Family responsibilities (other than child care)	2
Health reasons	3
Other (specify)	4

[redacted]

D3. We are interested in child care arrangements that you made last week. Things like holidays, days when school is closed, illness, and care arrangements breaking down, can often interfere with a family's usual child care arrangements. Was there anything different or unusual about the arrangements you made last week?

Yes	1	
No	2	go to D6

D4.1 **(IF MULTIPLE CHILDREN 12 OR YOUNGER)** Was the child care arrangement last week different or unusual for all of your children?

Yes	**(GO TO D5)**
No	**(ASK D4.2)**

D4.2 *[if necessary]* For which child was it unusual? **(WILL LIST NAMES OF ALL CHILDREN 18 OR UNDER)**

Name _____

D5.1 What was unusual? **(IF CHILD IS 12 OR UNDER AND D4=Yes)**

Usual caregiver was not available	1
Child was ill	2
Child had days off at school	3
Designated adult or spouse was not at work	4
Other _____	5

D5.2 What was unusual in [child's name] day care arrangements last week? [REPEAT D5.2 FOR NEXT CHILD IF NECESSARY]

_____

[redacted]

D6. Now that we know what was unusual last week, we would like you to think about your usual arrangements. Please answer the following questions in terms of what normally happens.

(D7 IS NOT ASKED. FOR ALL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSIDER D7=2)

[redacted]

D8. Thinking about your normal child care arrangements, did any of your children spend any time in the care of your spouse/partner while you were out of the home last week?

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 GO TO D14

D9. Have you and your spouse/partner deliberately arranged your schedules so as to eliminate or reduce the number of hours of care you would otherwise require for your [child /children]?

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 GO TO D12

D10. What are the main reasons you have decided to do this?

Wanted to share child care 1
Thought it best for the child 2
Could not afford other child care costs 3
Could not find suitable care arrangement 4
Other 5

D11. (IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD UNDER 13 – WILL LIST ALL CHILDREN 18 OR UNDER) [IF D7=2] Which child was that? Name

D12. (ASKED OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER 13 AND D11=Yes) About how many hours last week was [child's name] were your children in the care of your spouse while you were outside the home?

Hours weekly . . . . . _____

[REPEAT IF D7=2]

is/her care, D13. What was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END) . . . . . .

Working at a job or business 1
Studying, going to school 2
Running errands, shopping 3
Sports/recreation activity 4
Social activity 5
Something else _____

_____

[redacted]

D14. Thinking about your normal day care arrangements, did any of your children spend any time in the care of a relative, a neighbour, a babysitter, or a nanny last week? Please do not include care given by [your partner or an older brother or sister or care in] a provincially licensed day care centre.

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 GO TO D25

D15. [IF D7=2] Last week, which of your children normally spent time in this sort of care?

Name_____

D16. Was this care in your home, in the day care provider's home, or somewhere else? [PROBE FOR MOST COMMON ARRANGEMENTS.]

In your home	1	
In their home	2	GO TO D18
Somewhere else	3	GO TO D18

D17. Does this person providing care also live in your household?

Yes	1
No	2

D18. Is this person related to your [child / children]?

Yes	1
No	2

D19. About how many hours last week, [was /were] your [child/children] in their care?

Hours _____

D20. [IF D16 = 2 OR 3] Is that service licensed by the government to provide child care?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	9

D21. [IF D16 = 2 OR 3] How many children, other than your own, are normally in this person's care?

Number	_____	or
Don't know	99	

D22. How much did you pay for this arrangement?

Amount	_____	hourly
	_____	daily
	_____	weekly
	_____	monthly

D23. [IF D16 = 1] Does this cost include other services such as housekeeping?

Yes	1
No	2

[REPEAT D16-D23 FOR NEXT CHILD IF D7=2]

D24. While your [child was /children were] in this care, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business	1
Studying, going to school	2
Running errands, shopping	3
Sports/recreation activity	4
Social activity	5
Something else	_____

D25. During the past week, did [your child /any of your children] spend any time in a provincially licensed day care centre? [PROBE TO ENSURE FACILITY IS LICENSED. INTERVIEWER NOTES REQUIRED]

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 GO TO D33

D26. [IF D7=2] Which child was that?

Name . . . . . _____

D27. Is this licensed day care centre located

at your place of work, or study 1
at your spouse's place of work or study 2
at a neighbourhood school 3
in your neighbourhood 4
or somewhere else? 5

D28. Is this centre operated by or affiliated with ....

a school, college, or university 1
you or your spouse's place of work 2
a church 3
a non-profit day care service, or 4
a private day care business 5
something else? . . . . . _____
don't know 9

D30. About how many hours last week, [was your child/were your children] in this licensed day care centre?

Hours . . . . . _____

D31. How much do you pay for this care?

Amount . . . . . _____ hourly
. . . . . _____ daily
. . . . . _____ weekly
. . . . . _____ monthly

[REPEAT FOR NEXT CHILD IF D7 = 2]

D32. While [your child was / your children were] in this program, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business 1
Studying, going to school 2
Running errands, shopping 3
Sports/recreation activity 4
Social activity 5
Something else . . . . . _____

D33. During the past week, did [your child /any of your children] spend any time in a pre-school program or a play school?

No	1	GO TO D38
Yes	2	

D34. [IF D7=2 AND THERE ARE 2 OR MORE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3 AND 6] Which child was that?

Name . . . _____

D35. About how many hours last week, [was child's name] were your children in this program?

Hours .....

D36. How much did you pay for this arrangement?

Amount	_____	hourly
	_____	daily
	_____	weekly
	_____	monthly

[REPEAT FOR NEXT CHILD IF D21 APPLIES]

D37. While [your child was / your children were] in this program, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business	1
Studying, going to school	2
Running errands, shopping	3
Sports/recreation activity	4
Social activity	5
Something else	_____

D38. [Did your child /Do any of your children] participate in a before or after school program or a school lunch Program?

No	1	GO TO D45
Yes, before school	2	
Yes, after school	3	
Yes, lunch	4	
Combination of the three	5	

D39. [IF D7=2 AND THERE ARE TWO OR MORE CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 12] Which child was that?

Name . . . . . _____

D40. What grade is *[child's* name] in at school?

Grade . . . . . _____

D41. About how many hours last week, [was your child / were your children] in this program?

Hours . . . . . _____

D42. Is the program licensed by the government to provide child care?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	9

D43. How much did you pay for this arrangement?

Amount . . . . . ____ hourly
. . . . . ____ daily
. . . . . ____ weekly
. . . . . ____ monthly

[REPEAT FOR NEXT CHILD IF D14 APPLIES]

D44. While [your child was / your children were] in school, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business 1
Studying, going to school 2
Running errands, shopping 3
Sports/recreation activity 4
Social activity 5
Something else . . . . . _____

[redacted]

D45. Last week did [your child / any of your children] spend any time with you [or your partner/spouse] while you were working or going to school?

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 go to D47

D46. About how many hours last week, [was your child / your children] in this kind of care?

Hours . . . . . _____

D47. When you [and your partner/spouse] were making your current child care arrangements, was it necessary for you [or your partner/spouse] to change your [or your partner's/spouse's] [work / school] schedule in order to better suit the child care arrangements you were able to find?

Yes, I changed my schedule 1
Yes, my [partner/spouse] changed [his/her] schedule 2
Yes, we both changed our schedules 3
No 4

[redacted]

D48. Thinking about your normal childcare arrangements, did any of your children spend any time in the care of [his/her older brother(s)/sister(s)] while you were out of the home last week?

Yes 1
No . . . . . 2 go to D52

D49. [IF D7=2] Which child was that?

Name . . . . . _____

D50. About how many hours last week, [was your child / were your children] in the care of their [his/her brother/sister]?

Hours . . . . . _____

D51. While [your child was / your children were] under a sibling's care, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business	1
Studying, going to school	2
Running errands, shopping	3
Sports/recreation activity	4
Social activity	5
Something else _____	

[REPEAT FOR NEXT CHILD IF D7=2]

[redacted]

D52. Children sometimes look after themselves for a while when their parents are working or studying. Last week, were there any times when [your child was /your children were] taking care ofhemselves while you were out of the house

Yes	1	
No	2	go to E1

D53. [IF D7..1=2] Which child was that?
Name _____

D54. In total, for how many hours [was your child /were your children] taking care of themselves?
Hours _____

D55. While [was your child /were your children] at home, what was your main activity? (PRE-CODED OPEN-END)

Working at a job or business	1
Studying, going to school	2
Running errands, shopping	3
Sports/recreation activity	4
Social activity	5
Something else _____	

[REPEAT FOR NEXT CHILD IF D7=2]

ATTITUDES AND PREFERENCES - SECTION E

E1. We would like to ask you some general questions about your preferences for the care of [your child / your children]

[redacted]

[For each child]

E2. Given your current work schedule and your present income, which type of arrangement would you most prefer for your [child / children] while you are working? Would it be

care in your home, or	1	SKIP TO E3
care outside the home, or	2	SKIP TO E4
care in your place of work?	3	SKIP TO E5
Other	4	

E3. [If in the home] Would this be care by

your spouse or partner (if applicable)	1
another family member, or	2
someone else?	3
Other _____	

ALL RESPONDENTS GO TO E5

E4. [If outside the home] Would this be care in ...

a day care centre in the neighbourhood,	1
a day care centre in the school	2
a family day care home	3
(ie., "family day care home is a licensed day care facility that is operated out of the care giver's home)	
a pre-school program	4
care by a family member in the family member's home	5
care by a non-family member outside your home	6
Other _____	

E5. [If not currently using this arrangement – FILL INFORMATION REQUIRED] What is the main factor are preventing you from using this type of care for [your child / your children]? Are there any factors? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANWSERS)

Costs too much	1
Option is not available	2
Poor quality in options available	3
Transportation problems	4
Child has special needs	5
Does not match work schedule	6
Other _____	

E6. [IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD 12 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER] Would you want this arrangement for all of your children?

Yes	1	(SKIP TO E8)
No	2	

E7 [IF E6=2) Which child would you want different care for? [ROTATE THROUGH CHILDREN, STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST]
Name . . . . . _____

[REPEAT E2 AND SKIPS BUT CHANGE E2 WORDING TO: Which type of arrangements would you most prefer for [name child]. Would that be....

E8. Juggling work, family, and child care responsibilities can sometimes be difficult. Some factors create stress for the parents or children while others reduce it. Given your current work and child care arrangements, I would like to know how much stress or discomfort you feel about each of the following issues with a "l " meaning no stress and a "5" a great deal of stress.

a. Concerns about your child's safety and well-being while you are working	1	2	3	4	5
b. Feeling that your job or career is being hampered by difficulties with child care arrangements	1	2	3	4	5
c. [if applicable] Transportation problems getting between work and child care	1	2	3	4	5
d. Maintaining a backup arrangement for temporary or emergency use . .	1	2	3	4	5
e. Finding good quality care	1	2	3	4	5
f. Worrying that your arrangement will not be available much longer	1	2	3	4	5
g. Managing the costs of quality care	1	2	3	4	5
h. [FROM B] Finding an arrangement that will accommodate your child's special needs	1	2	3	4	5
i. Knowing where to go to get information about child care	1	2	3	4	5
j. Are there any other stress factors we've missed (OPEN END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS)	_____				

E9. Given your current schedule and your present income, which type of arrangement would you most prefer for your [child/children] while you are at school? Would it be

care in your home, or	1	GO TO E10
outside the home, or	2	GO TO E11
care where you go to school?	3	GO TO 12
Other		

E10. [If in the home] Would this be care by

your spouse or partner (if applicable)	1
another family member, or	2
someone else?	3
Other	_____

E11. [If outside the home] Would this be care in

a day care centre in the neighbourhood, ...	1
a day care centre in the school	2
a family day care home	3
(ie., "family day care home is a licensed day care facility that is operated out of the care giver's home)	
a pre-school program	4
care by a family member in the family member's home .	5
care by a non-family member outside your home	6
Other	_____

E12. *[If* not currently using this arrangement] What factors are preventing you from using this type of care for [child's name]?

Costs too much 1
Option is not available 2
Poor quality in options available 3
Transportation problems 4
Child has special needs 5
Does not match schedule 6
Other . . . . . _____

E13. [IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD 12 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER] Would you want this arrangement for all of your children?

Yes . . . . . 1 (SKIP TO E15)
No 2

E14. [IF E13=2) Which child would you want different care for? [ROTATE THROUGH CHILDREN, STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST]

Name . . . . . _____

[REPEAT E9 AND SKIPS BUT CHANGE E9 WORDING TO: Which type of arrangements would you most prefer for [name child]. Would that be....

E15. Studying while juggling school, family, and child care responsibilities can sometimes be difficult. Some factors create stress for the parents or children while others reduce it. Given your current school and child care arrangements, I would like to know how much stress or discomfort you feel about each of the following issues with a 1 meaning no stress and a "5" a great deal of stress.

a. Concerns about your child's safety and well-being while you are working	1	2	3	4	5
b. Feeling that your job or career is being hampered by difficulties with child care arrangements	1	2	3	4	5
c. [if applicable] Transportation problems getting between work and child care	1	2	3	4	5
d. Maintaining a backup arrangement for temporary or emergency use	1	2	3	4	5
e. Finding good quality care	1	2	3	4	5
f. Worrying that your arrangement will not be available much longer	1	2	3	4	5
g. Managing the costs of quality care	1	2	3	4	5
h. [FROM B] Finding an arrangement that will accommodate your child's special needs	1	2	3	4	5
i. Knowing where to go to get information about child care	1	2	3	4	5
j. Are there any other stress factors we've missed (OPEN END _ ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS)	_____				

E16. Given your current work and class schedule and your present income, which type of arrangement would you most prefer for your [child /children] while you are working or at school? Would it be ...

care in your home, or	1	GO TO E17
outside the home, or	2	GO TO E18
care in your place of work, or	3	GO TO E19
care where you go to school?	4	GO TO E19
Other _____		

E17. [If in the home] Would this be care by

your spouse or partner (if applicable)	1
another family member, or	2
someone else?	3
Other _____	

E18 [If outside the home] Would this be care in

a day care centre in the neighbourhood	1
a day care centre in the school	2
a family day care home	3
(ie., "family day care home is a licensed day care facility that is operated out of the care giver's home)	
a pre-school program	4
care by a family member in their home	5
care by a non-family member outside your home?	6
Other _____	

E19. *[If not currently using this arrangement] What* factors are preventing you from using this type of care for *[child's name]?*

Costs too much	1
Option is not available	2
Poor quality in options available	3
Transportation problems	4
Child has special needs	5
Does not match work schedule	6
Other _____	

E20. [IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD 12 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER] Would you want this arrangement for all of your children?

Yes	1	(SKIP TO E22)
No	2	

E21. [IF E20=2) Which child would you want different care for? [ROTATE THROUGH CHILDREN, STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST]

Name _____

[REPEAT E16 AND SKIPS BUT CHANGE E16 WORDING TO: Which type of arrangements would you most prefer for [name child]. Would that be....

E22. Juggling work, school, family, and child care responsibilities can sometimes be difficult. Some factors create stress for the parents or children while others reduce it. Given your current work and child care arrangements, I would like to know how much stress or discomfort you feel about each of the following issues with a I meaning no stress and a "5" a great deal of stress.

a. Concerns about your child's safety and well-being while you are working	1	2	3	4	5
b. Feeling that your job cr career is being hampered by difficulties with child care arrangements	1	2	3	4	5
c. [if applicable] Transportation problems getting between work and child care	1	2	3	4	5
d. Maintaining a backup arrangement for temporary or emergency use	1	2	3	4	5
e. Finding good quality care	1	2	3	4	5
f. Worrying that your arrangement will not be available much longer	1	2	3	4	5
g. Managing the costs of quality care	1	2	3	4	5
h. [FROM B] Finding an arrangement that will accommodate your child's special needs	1	2	3	4	5
i. Knowing where to go to get information about child care	1	2	3	4	5

j. Are there any other stress factors we've missed (OPEN END _ ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS) _____

[redacted]

E23. Last week, the main method of child care seems to be [verify main method of child care based on calculated hours]

a day care centre at work *[school]*	1	
a day care centre in the neighbourhood	2	
a pre-school program	3	
care by your spouse or partner	4	
care by a family member in your home	5	
care in your home *[non-relative]*	6	
care by a family member outside your home	7	
care in a family day care home	8	
care by a non-family member outside your home	9	
care by yourself	10	skip to E27
Other _____		

E25. What sources of information did you use to find this child care arrangement? (PRE-CODED OPEN END, PROBE FOR UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

Friends, neighbours, co-workers	1
Relatives	2
Previous caregivers	3
Referrals from professionals	4
Bulletin boards,	5
Newspapers	6
Pamphlets and books	7
Visits to child care centres	8
Church or church organizations	9
Yellow pages	10
Knew what I was going to do (previous experience)	11
Teachers, principal, school officials	12
Other (SPECIFY) _____	

E27. Have you ever experienced a problem with the availability of suitable child care?

Yes 1
No 2

Did this limit your ABILITY TO WORK?

Yes 1
No 2

Did this limit the HOURS YOU COULD WORK?

Yes 1
No 2

Did this limit the KIND OF EMPLOYMENT YOU COULD HAVE?

Yes 1
No 2

E28. [IF E23=10]For each of the following items please indicate if it was not at all important, not very important, somewhat important or very important when you were deciding on the main child care arrangements for your [child / children} How about ... [RANDOMIZE]

If E23=10 (stay at home parent) Use the following introduction to E28:
If you decided to return to school or the work force would each of the following items be not at all important, not very important, somewhat important or very important when deciding on the main child care arrangements for your [child / children} How about ... [RANDOMIZE]
(1= not at all important, 2= not very important, 3 = somewhat important, 4= very important, 9= don't know / refused)

a. The caregiver provides care in your own home	1	2	3	4	9
b. The arrangement allows your children to stay together as much as possible	1	2	3	4	9
c. The caregiver would provide care when your child is sick	1	2	3	4	9
d The caregiver's style of working with children is similar to your own	1	2	3	4	9
e. Alternative care is available if the caregiver is ill.	1	2	3	4	9
f. The caregiver has a similar cultural background to your own	1	2	3	4	9
g. [FROM B] The arrangement accommodates [child's name] special needs (DEFINITION: Special needs is a physical or mental disability that limits school or work activities)	1	2	3	4	9
h. The convenience of the location	1	2	3	4	9
i. The cost of the care	1	2	3	4	9
j. The quality of food served	1	2	3	4	9
k. The kinds of educational activities for the children	1	2	3	4	9
l. The environment is healthy for children, by this I mean it is smoke-free, or free of things that aggravate allergies or breathing difficulties like pet fur or mold.	1	2	3	4	9
m. The caregiver's education and training	1	2	3	4	9
n. The caregiver's experience	1	2	3	4	9
o. The ratio of caregivers to children	1	2	3	4	9
r. The facility is licensed by the government	1	2	3	4	9
s. Are there other important factors we've missed?	_____				

E29. You have listed ____ (CALCULATION FROM E16 – NUMBER OF "VERY IMPORTANT" RESPONSES) factors as very important. But if you had to choose just one, which would be the most important? (IF RESPONDENT HESITATES :If you want, I'll read them back to you. (ACCEPT ONLY ONE ANSWER)
List Record letter _____

[redacted]

Until now we have talked about arrangements for your children. To end this interview, I would like to ask a few quick questions about some current issues surrounding child care. Because you are a parent, we are interested in your opinions about these issues.

E32. What kind of care do you think is best for the infants or toddlers of working parents? [0 TO 3 YEARS OF AGE]Would it be

care in their home, or	1	GO TO E33
outside the home, or	2	GO TO E34
Other	3	GO TO E35

E33. [If in the home] Would this be care by

a parent	1	GO TO E35
another family member, or	2	GO TO E35
someone else?	3	GO TO E35
Other _____		

E34. [If outside the home] Would this be care in

a day care centre in the neighbourhood	1
a day care centre in a school	2
a family day care home, or	3
care by a family member in their home?	4
Other _____	

E35. and for pre-schoolers? [3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS]

care in their home, or	1	GO TO E36
outside the home, or	2	GO TO E37
Other	3	GO TO E38

E36. [If in the home] Would this be care by

a parent	1	GO TO E38
another family member, or	2	GO TO E38
someone else?	3	GO TO E38
Other	4	GO TO E38

E37. [If outside the home] Would this be care in

a day care centre in the neighbourhood	1
a day care centre in a school	2
a family day care home .	3
a pre-school program, or	4
care by a family member in their home?	5
Other	6

E38. .... and for school-aged children? [AGES 5 AND UP]

care in their home, or	1	GO TO E39
outside the home, or	2	GO TO E40
Other	3	GO TO E41

E39. [If in the home] Would this be care by ...

a parent 1
another family member, or 2
someone else? 3
Other 4

E40. [If outside the home] Would this be care in ...

a day care centre in the neighborhood . . . . . 1 GO TO E41
a day care centre in a school . . . . . 2 GO TO E41
a family day care home . . . . . 3 GO TO E41
care by a family member in their home? . . . . . 4 GO TO E41
Other . . . . . _____

E41. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.[RANDOMIZE]

	Strongly Agree	Some Agree	Some Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a) Governments should ensure child care is available in all parts of the province	1	2	3	4	9
b) Extending kindergarten to include four year olds would be a way to help meet child care needs in Saskatchewan	1	2	3	4	9
c) Governments should help low-income parents with the costs for child care	1	2	3	4	9
d) Governments should help middle-income parents with the costs for child care	1	2	3	4	9
e) Assuming that a family qualifies for child care subsidies, the family should be allowed to use that subsidy to pay a relative to fulfill their child care needs	1	2	3	4	9
f) Children would be better off if one of their parents could stay home to look after them even if it negatively affected the family's financial situation .	1	2	3	4	9
g) The main goal of child care is to help develop social and learning skills	1	2	3	4	9
h) Governments should make and enforce regulations to ensure child care services meet minimum quality standards	1	2	3	4	9
i) The main goal of child care is to enable parents to work or go to school	1	2	3	4	9
j) Parents, not governments, should always be responsible for paying for child care	1	2	3	4	9
k) Finding the child care arrangement parents want is difficult because there are so few child care options to choose from.	1	2	3	4	9

E42. If governments had to choose how to promote quality child care, which of the following actions should be their first priority?

a. Providing subsidies to parents so they can choose the child care they want 1
b. Making sure that more quality child care is available in all parts of the province 2
c. Inspecting and regulating child care facilities to make sure they are safe and properly staffed, or [ACCEPT BUT DO NOT VOLUNTEER] 3
d. Something else? 4
(_____)
e. None of these 9

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS - SECTION F

F1. Finally, we would like to ask you some general questions about yourself. What is the highest grade of high school or elementary school that you have completed?
Grade . . . . . _____

F2. Have you completed any further schooling?
Trades certificate 1
Certificate or diploma from a College 2
Certificate or diploma from a university 3
University degree 4
Attended College/University but no degree/diploma 5
None of the above 6

F3. We would also like some information about the size of community that you live in. Do you live...
On a farm . . . . . 1 GO TO F5
On a First Nations Reserve . . . . . 2 GO TO F5
In the far North . . . . . 3 GO TO F5
or in village, town or city 4

F4. What is the population of your community?
Under 1,000 1
more than 1,000 but less than 5,000 2
between 5,000 and 20,000 3
between 20,000 and 35,000 4
between 35,000 and 50,000 5
between 50,000 and 100,000 6
more than 100,000 but not Regina or Saskatoon 7
Regina or Saskatoon 8

F5. Do you or does someone in your family have access to the Internet? Would that be at work, at home, both, or elsewhere?
No access 1
At work 2
At home 3
Have access elsewhere (Internet café, library, friend's house) . . 4
DK/NA 5

F6. Are you an Aboriginal person, that is a member of a First Nations or a Métis?
No 1
Yes, Aboriginal/First Nations . . . . . 2 GO TO F7
Yes, Métis . . . . . 3 GO TO F7

F7. To which cultural or ethnic groups did your ancestors belong? (DO NOT PROMPT. DO NOT READ - CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

01 - British (English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh)
02 - French (Quebecois, Franco Ontarian, Franco-Manitoban, Acadian)
03 - German
04 - Italian
05 - Ukrainian
06 - Dutch
07 - Chinese
08 - Jewish
09 - Polish
10 - Portuguese
11 - Aboriginal (North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, Dene, Mohawk, Cree, etc.)
12 - Other European (Russian, Scandinavian, Greek, etc.)
13 - West Indian (Caribbean)
14 - South Asian (East Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani)
15 - Other East Asian (ex. Japanese)
16 - Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Filipino)
17 – Central Asia/Middle Eastern or North African
18 - South or Latin American
19 - Sub-Saharan African (black)
20 - Canadian
21- American
22 - Other (SPECIFY)

F8. Thinking about the whole household, what would you estimate the total income before taxes and deductions would have been last year? Would it be....

Under $10,000 1
$10,000 to $19,999 2
$20,000 to $29,999 3
$30,000 to $39,999 4
$40,000 to $49,999 5
$50,000 to $79,999 6
$80,000 or more 7

F9. What are the first three characters of your postal code? _____
(if unknown record name of town or city _____)

F10. GENDER (OBSERVATION ONLY)

F10. REGION (SYSTEM CODE)

01 – Regina
02 – Saskatoon
03 – Rural south
04 – Rural central
05 – Rural north

Thank and end

Appendix C
Demographic and Labour Market Characteristics of Current Child Care Users by Type of Arrangement

Table C1: Last week was "abnormal"?

		Total responses	Yes, usual caregiver not available	Yes, child was ill	Yes, child off school	Yes, adult not at work	Yes, other or unspecified	Any of these
All children		**2,318**	**4.1%**	**1.8%**	**1.9%**	**1.3%**	*	**9.2%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	4.8%	1.8%	*	1.4%	*	8.4%
	3 to 5 years	543	5.2%	1.1%	1.1%	2.0%	*	9.8%
	6 or older	1,272	3.4%	2.0%	2.8%	1.1%	*	9.2%
	Total	2,318	4.1%	1.8%	1.9%	1.3%	*	9.2%
All households		**1,272**	**7.5%**	**3.2%**	**3.4%**	**2.4%**	**1.1%**	**10.8%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	3.7%	*	1.8%	2.7%	1.0%	7.5%
	Female	1,035	8.3%	3.8%	3.8%	2.4%	1.1%	11.6%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	6.8%	2.8%	*	*	*	8.0%
	25 to 34	512	8.9%	3.5%	2.4%	3.5%	*	11.0%
	35 or older	634	6.5%	3.1%	4.7%	2.1%	2.2%	11.3%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	4.2%	3.2%	2.3%	2.2%	1.0%	7.9%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	8.2%	1.5%	4.1%	1.9%	*	9.5%
	University degree	252	13.2%	6.6%	4.5%	3.9%	2.5%	20.0%
	Total	1,268	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.9%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	7.8%	3.1%	3.9%	2.7%	1.3%	11.5%
	Yes	193	6.1%	3.3%	*	1.2%	*	7.1%
	Total	1,266	7.5%	3.1%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	5.5%	2.4%	3.1%	2.8%	*	11.0%
	Regina	269	10.9%	3.0%	3.0%	2.6%	1.3%	12.2%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	7.0%	4.4%	4.7%	3.2%	1.1%	12.1%
	Rural	308	7.0%	2.6%	2.3%	1.0%	1.3%	7.9%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	8.1%	3.2%	3.4%	1.7%	1.4%	10.2%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	8.1%	3.6%	1.7%	2.6%	1.4%	10.0%
	$50,000 plus	451	7.9%	3.6%	5.2%	3.3%	1.0%	13.8%
	Total	1,158	8.0%	3.4%	3.7%	2.6%	1.2%	11.6%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	9.1%	2.6%	3.4%	1.2%	1.8%	9.4%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	7.2%	4.6%	3.6%	3.3%	1.0%	11.9%
	$15,000 or more	303	7.8%	2.7%	4.1%	3.2%	*	13.7%
	Total	1,158	8.0%	3.4%	3.7%	2.6%	1.2%	11.6%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	8.0%	2.8%	1.9%	2.8%	*	9.8%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	5.5%	2.8%	6.2%	1.9%	2.2%	11.1%
	Single parents	219	6.8%	4.8%	2.5%	1.6%	*	10.9%
	Other	63	17.9%	4.4%	1.3%	5.5%	4.4%	18.6%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Table C1: Last week was "abnormal"?

		Total responses	Yes, usual caregiver not available	Yes, child was ill	Yes, child off school	Yes, adult not at work	Yes, other or unspecified	Any of these
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	8.9%	4.8%	1.3%	2.2%	*	9.9%
	2 to 5	429	9.1%	1.5%	2.1%	3.6%	*	10.5%
	6 or older	549	5.5%	3.7%	5.5%	1.7%	2.2%	11.6%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	7.0%	4.1%	5.3%	1.7%	*	12.9%
	One or both part-time	213	7.5%	2.4%	6.3%	1.5%	2.4%	12.4%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	8.0%	2.0%	*	3.4%	1.0%	7.5%
	Total	1,261	7.5%	3.0%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.7%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	7.0%	3.5%	6.0%	2.0%	1.5%	12.9%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	10.4%	6.5%	3.4%	1.2%	1.5%	16.1%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	2.5%	*	*	3.6%	*	3.3%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	8.6%	1.8%	*	3.4%	*	7.1%
	Total	1,271	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.9%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	6.7%	3.3%	3.4%	2.4%	1.3%	10.2%
	Yes	142	13.6%	2.5%	3.3%	2.5%	*	15.8%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	7.6%	3.8%	4.9%	2.2%	1.3%	12.8%
	No	379	7.2%	1.9%	*	3.0%	*	6.3%
	Total	1,271	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.9%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	6.0%	1.9%	*	3.1%	*	5.8%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	8.0%	3.7%	4.6%	2.4%	*	12.8%
	Part time	232	8.3%	3.9%	5.5%	1.5%	2.9%	13.4%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	6.0%	1.9%	*	3.1%	*	5.8%
	Monday to Friday	557	6.6%	4.2%	5.0%	2.5%	1.0%	13.0%
	Non-standard	343	10.4%	3.0%	4.5%	1.7%	1.9%	12.9%
	Total	1,272	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%	2.4%	1.1%	10.8%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Table C2: Spousal and Sibling Care

			Percent using Spousal Care		Percent using Sibling Care	
		Total responses	With spouse present	All households	With older sibling present	All households
All children		**2,318**	**63.6%**	**51.9%**	**45.6%**	**10.6%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	67.6%	12.0%	38.9%	2.8%
	3 to 5 years	543	67.0%	12.9%	38.8%	4.7%
	6 or older	1,272	60.6%	27.0%	47.1%	16.3%
	Total	2,318	63.6%	51.9%	45.6%	10.6%
All households		**1,272**	**67.2%**	**53.4%**	**55.5%**	**14.2%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	75.9%	65.0%	56.3%	15.1%
	Female	1,035	65.1%	50.7%	55.3%	14.0%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	74.6%	41.8%	*	*
	25 to 34	512	69.4%	55.4%	46.2%	3.5%
	35 or older	634	64.4%	54.0%	57.8%	25.7%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	63.2%	47.6%	51.1%	12.7%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	70.2%	56.8%	56.4%	16.5%
	University degree	252	70.1%	59.5%	67.3%	13.3%
	Total	1,268	67.4%	53.4%	55.9%	14.3%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	67.8%	56.7%	56.7%	14.2%
	Yes	193	63.0%	35.2%	50.9%	14.5%
	Total	1,266	67.3%	53.4%	55.7%	14.3%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	65.2%	49.2%	60.3%	15.0%
	Regina	269	69.8%	51.7%	64.2%	12.6%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	71.5%	57.4%	58.9%	14.1%
	Rural	308	61.8%	53.5%	44.2%	15.0%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	65.7%	36.5%	46.6%	10.6%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	68.5%	59.6%	51.3%	13.0%
	$50,000 plus	451	69.9%	66.5%	67.2%	18.2%
	Total	1,158	68.5%	54.5%	56.7%	14.2%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	65.0%	40.1%	43.1%	12.8%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	71.5%	64.5%	62.7%	16.0%
	$15,000 or more	303	67.0%	57.9%	71.4%	13.3%
	Total	1,158	68.5%	54.5%	56.7%	14.2%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	69.6%	69.6%	47.8%	3.9%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	63.2%	63.1%	56.9%	28.3%
	Single parents	219	66.7%	*	61.4%	16.0%
	Other	63	83.3%	23.5%	33.3%	7.5%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Table C2: Spousal and Sibling Care

			Percent using Spousal Care		Percent using Sibling Care	
		Total responses	With spouse present	All households	With older sibling present	All households
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	68.0%	55.7%	43.5%	3.4%
	2 to 5	429	71.4%	57.4%	48.1%	5.9%
	6 or older	549	63.4%	48.9%	58.2%	26.5%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	67.2%	48.3%	65.8%	18.6%
	One or both part-time	213	73.2%	73.3%	63.0%	16.1%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	63.9%	50.1%	38.1%	8.6%
	Total	1,261	67.2%	53.3%	55.6%	14.2%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	69.3%	69.3%	64.7%	18.1%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	...	...	67.4%	16.4%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	51.9%	21.4%	36.7%	8.6%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	66.0%	66.0%	35.1%	8.1%
	Total	1,271	67.3%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	67.1%	54.9%	56.3%	15.1%
	Yes	142	69.0%	40.8%	45.5%	7.2%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	71.9%	56.8%	62.7%	16.9%
	No	379	56.7%	45.4%	35.3%	7.9%
	Total	1,271	67.3%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	56.9%	45.2%	37.3%	8.3%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	71.6%	55.1%	62.1%	16.9%
	Part time	232	71.1%	61.5%	60.7%	16.0%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	56.9%	45.2%	37.3%	8.3%
	Monday to Friday	557	65.9%	52.4%	62.0%	16.7%
	Non-standard	343	80.4%	63.8%	61.3%	16.7%
	Total	1,272	67.2%	53.4%	55.5%	14.2%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

		Table C3: Care while at Work Care while at Work/School			Table C4: Self Care
		Total responses	Respondent works or goes to school	All households	Self care among all households
All children		**2,318**	**21.2%**	**16.0%**	**10.8%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	18.8%	14.0%	...
	3 to 5 years	543	23.7%	18.1%	2.1%
	6 or older	1,272	20.9%	15.8%	18.7%
	Total	2,318	21.2%	16.0%	10.8%
All households		**1,272**	**24.4%**	**18.3%**	**17.9%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	29.6%	23.6%	17.8%
	Female	1,035	23.2%	17.1%	17.9%
	Total	1,272	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	21.5%	11.0%	1.6%
	25 to 34	512	25.2%	18.8%	9.3%
	35 or older	634	24.2%	19.4%	28.1%
	Total	1,272	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	26.8%	18.1%	16.0%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	22.6%	17.6%	18.9%
	University degree	252	23.6%	19.8%	19.7%
	Total	1,268	24.5%	18.4%	17.8%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	24.2%	19.4%	18.5%
	Yes	193	26.7%	12.4%	14.4%
	Total	1,266			17.9%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	24.4%	18.3%	15.0%
	Regina	269	20.0%	14.5%	13.9%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	18.3%	13.0%	20.9%
	Rural	308	26.6%	20.6%	20.3%
	Total	1,272	30.4%	23.6%	17.9%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	24.4%	18.3%	14.6%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	30.5%	14.7%	19.7%
	$50,000 plus	451	24.9%	20.4%	18.7%
	Total	1,158	20.1%	18.8%	17.6%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	23.9%	17.9%	15.5%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	30.5%	16.3%	20.5%
	$15,000 or more	303	22.3%	19.7%	15.9%
	Total	1,158	20.9%	17.5%	17.6%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	23.9%	17.9%	6.8%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	23.0%	21.4%	33.1%
	Single parents	219	26.3%	25.1%	20.0%
	Other	63	50.0%	*	9.3%
	Total	1,272	23.5%	6.3%	17.9%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

		Table C3: Care while at Work Care while at Work/School			Table C4: Self Care
		Total responses	Respondent works or goes to school	All households	Self care among all households
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	24.4%	18.3%	3.8%
	2 to 5	429	19.5%	14.6%	9.1%
	6 or older	549	25.3%	19.3%	32.3%
	Total	1,272	26.4%	19.5%	17.9%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	28.3%	20.3%	23.9%
	One or both part-time	213	26.3%	26.3%	14.1%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	17.9%	12.0%	12.9%
	Total	1,261	24.1%	18.3%	17.9%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	28.0%	28.0%	20.8%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	not asked	not asked	21.7%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	...	...	11.9%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	18.0%	18.0%	12.9%
	Total	1,271	24.3%	18.0%	17.9%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	25.2%	18.7%	18.9%
	Yes	142	24.4%	14.8%	10.1%
	Total	1,272	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	28.1%	22.2%	19.9%
	No	379	13.7%	8.9%	13.4%
	Total	1,271	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	13.8%	8.8%	14.2%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	28.3%	21.7%	20.4%
	Part time	232	27.0%	23.4%	16.8%
	Total	1,272	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	13.8%	8.8%	14.2%
	Monday to Friday	557	22.4%	17.8%	18.0%
	Non-standard	343	37.1%	29.4%	21.8%
	Total	1,272	24.4%	18.3%	17.9%

Table C5: Informal Care

		Total responses	Of any kind	In home care	Any out-of home informal care	Any informal non-relative care	Any informal relative care
All children		**2,318**	**42.6%**	**15.9%**	**28.1%**	**22.0%**	**22.7%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	54.4%	18.0%	33.8%	24.3%	30.1%
	3 to 5 years	543	54.9%	16.8%	37.0%	27.9%	26.9%
	6 or older	1,272	32.6%	14.7%	19.5%	14.7%	17.9%
	Total	2,318	42.6%	15.9%	28.1%	22.0%	22.7%
All households		**1,272**	**42.6%**	**15.9%**	**26.7%**	**22.7%**	**19.9%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	38.3%	14.1%	24.2%	20.4%	17.9%
	Female	1,035	43.4%	16.2%	27.2%	23.1%	20.3%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	46.4%	18.0%	28.3%	32.7%	13.7%
	25 to 34	512	48.5%	16.8%	31.7%	27.4%	21.1%
	35 or older	634	36.6%	14.7%	21.9%	16.7%	19.9%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	36.0%	13.6%	22.4%	21.4%	14.6%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	45.1%	15.4%	29.7%	25.3%	19.7%
	University degree	252	52.6%	22.3%	30.2%	20.7%	31.9%
	Total	1,268	42.5%	15.9%	26.6%	22.7%	19.8%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	43.7%	15.6%	28.1%	21.6%	22.0%
	Yes	193	36.4%	17.6%	18.8%	27.9%	8.6%
	Total	1,266	42.4%	15.9%	26.5%	22.7%	19.7%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	45.0%	15.2%	29.8%	21.9%	23.0%
	Regina	269	41.9%	16.7%	25.2%	21.9%	20.0%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	44.1%	17.7%	26.4%	20.8%	23.3%
	Rural	308	39.2%	13.7%	25.5%	26.0%	13.1%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	39.2%	15.8%	23.4%	27.7%	11.4%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	40.3%	15.1%	25.1%	20.7%	19.6%
	$50,000 plus	451	48.2%	16.0%	32.3%	20.1%	28.1%
	Total	1,158	42.9%	15.7%	27.3%	22.9%	20.1%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	35.7%	14.9%	20.8%	24.7%	11.0%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	46.8%	14.6%	32.2%	22.0%	24.8%
	$15,000 or more	303	49.4%	19.0%	30.4%	21.0%	28.5%
	Total	1,158	42.9%	15.7%	27.3%	22.9%	20.1%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	47.2%	16.3%	30.9%	23.4%	23.7%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	30.3%	11.1%	19.2%	16.4%	13.8%
	Single parents	219	49.0%	20.5%	28.5%	28.3%	20.7%
	Other	63	48.5%	25.8%	22.6%	34.2%	14.3%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Table C5: Informal Care

		Total responses	Of any kind	In home care	Any out-of home informal care	Any informal non-relative care	Any informal relative care
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	47.3%	21.1%	26.3%	25.1%	22.2%
	2 to 5	429	48.4%	15.3%	33.1%	25.1%	23.3%
	6 or older	549	33.3%	12.8%	20.6%	18.5%	14.8%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	50.9%	15.4%	35.5%	24.4%	26.5%
	One or both part-time	213	50.0%	15.5%	34.5%	19.6%	30.4%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	31.9%	16.4%	15.5%	22.6%	9.3%
	Total	1,261	42.4%	15.9%	26.6%	22.7%	19.7%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	50.8%	15.2%	35.6%	22.0%	28.8%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	49.5%	18.5%	31.0%	26.7%	22.8%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	35.1%	21.0%	14.1%	28.7%	6.3%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	29.8%	13.9%	15.8%	19.8%	10.0%
	Total	1,271	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	42.3%	16.3%	25.9%	22.2%	20.0%
	Yes	142	45.1%	11.9%	33.2%	26.3%	18.8%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	47.6%	15.4%	32.2%	22.3%	25.3%
	No	379	32.9%	16.8%	16.0%	23.4%	9.5%
	Total	1,271	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	33.4%	16.9%	16.5%	23.5%	9.9%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	46.7%	15.6%	31.1%	22.7%	24.0%
	Part time	232	48.1%	14.8%	33.2%	21.1%	26.9%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	33.4%	16.9%	16.5%	23.5%	9.9%
	Monday to Friday	557	46.5%	14.3%	32.3%	19.4%	27.1%
	Non-standard	343	48.0%	17.1%	30.9%	26.7%	21.3%
	Total	1,272	42.6%	15.9%	26.7%	22.7%	19.9%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

			Table C6: School Programs		Table C7: Pre-School Programs	
		Total responses	All households	With school aged children	All households	With children three to five years
All children		**2,318**	**23.9%**	**33.9%**	**8.6%**	**18.4%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	...	...	...	...
	3 to 5 years	543	9.2%	25.5%	18.0%	18.4%
	6 or older	1,272	31.6%	36.6%	...	...
	Total	2,318	23.9%	33.9%	8.6%	18.4%
All households		**1,272**	**24.6%**	**33.9%**	**15.4%**	**40.7%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	25.1%	36.0%	15.9%	45.2%
	Female	1,035	24.5%	33.6%	15.2%	39.9%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	4.3%	17.2%	10.9%	25.5%
	25 to 34	512	22.9%	36.7%	19.4%	40.7%
	35 or older	634	30.0%	33.3%	13.0%	45.6%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	26.3%	36.0%	14.6%	37.6%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	24.2%	33.0%	14.9%	39.9%
	University degree	252	21.9%	31.6%	18.1%	50.0%
	Total	1,268	24.6%	34.0%	15.4%	40.7%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	23.0%	31.7%	15.3%	41.1%
	Yes	193	32.9%	45.7%	15.9%	39.2%
	Total	1,266	24.5%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	20.2%	31.3%	13.4%	33.1%
	Regina	269	29.6%	40.2%	16.5%	44.4%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	23.8%	33.1%	17.3%	46.9%
	Rural	308	25.4%	32.1%	13.7%	37.5%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	21.8%	32.0%	12.2%	31.4%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	22.7%	31.7%	16.7%	43.4%
	$50,000 plus	451	27.8%	36.9%	18.2%	49.1%
	Total	1,158	24.4%	33.9%	15.8%	41.4%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	24.0%	32.0%	16.7%	37.4%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	22.8%	31.3%	16.9%	44.3%
	$15,000 or more	303	27.3%	40.9%	13.0%	42.9%
	Total	1,158	24.4%	33.9%	15.8%	41.4%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	14.5%	28.3%	28.9%	43.1%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	36.8%	36.8%	...	...
	Single parents	219	27.9%	36.3%	10.9%	34.8%
	Other	63	22.4%	35.9%	10.6%	24.1%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

		Total responses	Table C6: School Programs All households	With school aged children	Table C7: Pre-School Programs All households	With children three to five years
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	9.8%	28.4%	16.1%	39.8%
	2 to 5	429	18.0%	28.6%	34.4%	41.0%
	6 or older	549	37.6%	37.7%		
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	25.3%	33.5%	11.1%	36.3%
	One or both part-time	213	29.3%	38.3%	20.5%	47.8%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	21.8%	32.4%	17.9%	41.3%
	Total	1,261	24.6%	34.1%	15.4%	40.7%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	26.3%	35.1%	15.6%	43.4%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	26.5%	34.3%	6.3%	21.4%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	28.9%	40.7%	18.3%	44.4%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	18.9%	28.8%	18.9%	43.0%
	Total	1,271	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	25.1%	34.0%	15.2%	41.1%
	Yes	142	20.5%	33.7%	16.7%	38.7%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	26.1%	34.7%	13.7%	38.9%
	No	379	21.1%	31.9%	19.3%	44.2%
	Total	1,271	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	20.2%	30.6%	19.3%	44.7%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	25.6%	34.3%	12.8%	38.5%
	Part time	232	28.6%	37.5%	16.3%	38.8%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	20.2%	30.6%	19.3%	44.7%
	Monday to Friday	557	27.5%	36.4%	12.9%	37.9%
	Non-standard	343	24.5%	32.8%	15.1%	40.3%
	Total	1,272	24.6%	33.9%	15.4%	40.7%

Table C8: Licensed Care

		Total responses	Family day care home	Licensed day care centre
All children		**2,318**	**1.9%**	**6.1%**
Age of children	Two or younger	503	2.6%	12.2%
	3 to 5 years	543	3.9%	3.8%
	6 or older	1,272	*	6.1%
	Total	2,318	1.9%	6.1%
All households		**1,272**	**2.9%**	**8.6%**
Gender of respondent	Male	237	2.7%	6.7%
	Female	1,035	2.9%	9.1%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	127	5.0%	21.9%
	25 to 34	512	3.5%	7.9%
	35 or older	634	1.9%	6.5%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	540	3.2%	8.3%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	476	2.5%	8.1%
	University degree	252	3.0%	10.1%
	Total	1,268	2.9%	8.6%
Aboriginal status	No	1,073	2.9%	8.1%
	Yes	193	2.6%	10.7%
	Total	1,266	2.9%	8.5%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	297	2.8%	12.3%
	Regina	269	3.0%	14.0%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	398	4.1%	7.0%
	Rural	308	1.3%	2.5%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Household income	Under $30,000	389	3.6%	12.4%
	$30,000 to $49,999	317	1.1%	5.9%
	$50,000 plus	451	3.2%	7.3%
	Total	1,158	2.8%	8.7%
Household income per person	Less than $8,000	392	3.3%	10.2%
	$8,000 to $15,000	463	2.3%	5.5%
	$15,000 or more	303	2.8%	11.5%
	Total	1,158	2.8%	8.7%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	569	3.9%	7.0%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	421	*	3.9%
	Single parents	219	3.7%	21.0%
	Other	63	7.5%	11.8%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Table C8: Licensed Care

		Total responses	Family day care home	Licensed day care centre
Age of youngest	Under 2	294	2.8%	4.1%
	2 to 5	429	5.5%	15.4%
	6 or older	549	*	5.7%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	547	3.6%	15.1%
	One or both part-time	213	2.2%	4.3%
	One partner or lone parent at home	501	2.4%	3.6%
	Total	1,261	2.9%	8.7%
Out of home activity in the household	Both out of home	617	2.8%	7.9%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	188	6.3%	26.9%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	129	*	2.5%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	337	1.9%	1.9%
	Total	1,271	2.9%	8.5%
One or both attending school?	No	1,130	2.4%	6.5%
	Yes	142	6.7%	25.7%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	892	3.4%	11.2%
	No	379	1.8%	2.3%
	Total	1,271	2.9%	8.5%
Respondent job type	Not employed	372	1.8%	2.3%
	Full time (at all jobs)	668	3.7%	13.0%
	Part time	232	2.4%	6.1%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%
Respondent job/school schedule	Not employed	372	1.8%	2.3%
	Monday to Friday	557	3.6%	13.5%
	Non-standard	343	2.9%	7.6%
	Total	1,272	2.9%	8.6%

* = less than 1%
... = not applicable

Appendix D
Stresses by Demographic and Labour Market Characteristics

		Percent who Report High Stress (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale)							
		Maintaining backup arrangement	Finding good quality care	Managing the costs	Concerns about child's safety while at work/school	Worry about permanence of arrangement	Job/career/ education is being hampered	Knowing where to go to get information	Transportation problems
All respondents		33%	26%	23%	16%	15%	11%	11%	9%
Gender of respondent	Male	21%	24%	21%	11%	12%	6%	9%	6%
	Female	37%	27%	24%	17%	16%	12%	12%	10%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	40%	23%	29%	16%	16%	20%	13%	14%
	25 to 34	33%	27%	26%	14%	17%	10%	13%	8%
	35 or older	32%	26%	20%	17%	14%	10%	10%	9%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	12%	10%	10%	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	13%	10%	9%	7%	6%	4%	5%	4%
	University degree	9%	7%	5%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Aboriginal identity	Non-Aboriginal	33%	25%	22%	14%	14%	9%	10%	8%
	Aboriginal	37%	34%	29%	23%	25%	19%	18%	13%
Region/ community size	Saskatoon	38%	30%	23%	11%	12%	6%	12%	10%
	Regina	32%	28%	28%	17%	16%	16%	11%	10%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	35%	26%	23%	16%	17%	10%	12%	6%
	Rural	26%	22%	18%	18%	14%	10%	10%	10%
Household income	Under $30,000	36%	32%	34%	19%	21%	19%	13%	15%
	$30,000 to $49,999	33%	22%	23%	15%	16%	11%	12%	9%
	$50,000 plus	34%	26%	16%	15%	13%	7%	10%	6%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	34%	28%	30%	18%	19%	19%	13%	14%
	$8,000 to $15,000	33%	27%	23%	18%	17%	10%	10%	8%
	$15,000 or more	36%	26%	17%	12%	12%	7%	12%	7%

		Percent who Report High Stress (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale)							
		Maintaining backup arrangement	Finding good quality care	Managing the costs	Concerns about child's safety while at work/school	Worry about permanence of arrangement	Job/career/ education is being hampered	Knowing where to go to get information	Transportation problems
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	37%	26%	23%	13%	15%	8%	13%	8%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	26%	21%	14%	18%	12%	9%	8%	7%
	Single parents	40%	37%	34%	14%	19%	15%	16%	13%
	Other	36%	29%	49%	24%	27%	26%	9%	13%
Age of youngest child	Under 2	39%	31%	30%	15%	19%	9%	14%	9%
	2 to 5	36%	27%	25%	12%	15%	9%	13%	9%
	6 or older	29%	25%	20%	18%	14%	12%	9%	9%
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	37%	29%	23%	16%	14%	9%	13%	9%
	One or both part-time	29%	20%	17%	13%	16%	13%	8%	9%
	One partner or lone parent at home	26%	24%	32%	15%	20%	15%	9%	9%
Out of home activity in hhld	Both out of home	33%	24%	19%	16%	14%	8%	11%	8%
	No spouse, respondent out of	39%	36%	39%	16%	21%	18%	15%	13%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	22%	21%	21%	12%	14%	10%	7%	7%
One or both attending school?	No	31%	25%	21%	15%	14%	9%	11%	8%
	Yes	45%	35%	33%	17%	23%	20%	16%	14%
Respondent's job type	Full time (at all jobs)	34%	28%	24%	16%	14%	9%	11%	8%
	Part time	31%	23%	21%	15%	17%	15%	12%	11%
Respondent's job schedule	Not employed	30%	24%	21%	14%	14%	8%	11%	7%
	Monday to Friday	38%	31%	27%	18%	17%	14%	12%	11%
	Non-standard								

Appendix E
Characteristics of Quality Child Care by Demographic and Labour Market Characteristics

		Percent who say this characteristic is "very important"						
		Healthy environment	Food quality	Caregiver's experience	Children stay together	Caregiver's style is similar to yours	Ratio of caregivers to children	Educational activities for child
All respondents		**80%**	**75%**	**73%**	**66%**	**63%**	**63%**	**60%**
Gender of respondent	Male	73%	68%	58%	69%	52%	54%	60%
	Female	82%	77%	76%	65%	66%	65%	60%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	84%	86%	77%	55%	58%	59%	71%
	25 to 34	82%	76%	75%	68%	64%	65%	64%
	35 or older	78%	72%	70%	67%	64%	62%	55%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	78%	78%	77%	68%	64%	61%	63%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	80%	74%	71%	66%	63%	60%	59%
	University degree	85%	70%	68%	63%	64%	74%	57%
Aboriginal identity	Non-Aboriginal	79%	74%	72%	65%	64%	64%	58%
	Aboriginal	86%	82%	79%	70%	61%	57%	73%
Region/community size	Saskatoon	82%	73%	76%	59%	64%	66%	60%
	Regina	80%	76%	70%	61%	63%	67%	65%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	79%	76%	75%	69%	64%	62%	60%
	Rural	80%	77%	70%	73%	63%	58%	57%
Household income	Under $30,000	82%	82%	78%	66%	64%	65%	67%
	$30,000 to $49,999	76%	76%	72%	69%	64%	65%	59%
	$50,000 plus	81%	69%	69%	65%	62%	61%	57%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	82%	81%	76%	69%	63%	63%	65%
	$8,000 to $15,000	77%	76%	72%	71%	64%	65%	57%
	$15,000 or more	83%	67%	69%	57%	63%	62%	61%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	83%	77%	76%	70%	66%	66%	62%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	76%	70%	67%	66%	61%	60%	51%
	Single parents	79%	79%	78%	61%	61%	65%	72%
	Other	77%	77%	72%	53%	61%	56%	69%
Age of youngest child	Under 2	87%	81%	79%	76%	70%	70%	67%
	2 to 5	80%	77%	74%	63%	63%	63%	63%
	6 or older	77%	71%	69%	63%	60%	60%	54%

		Percent who say this characteristic is "very important"						
		Healthy environment	Food quality	Caregiver's experience	Children stay together	Caregiver's style is similar to yours	Ratio of caregivers to children	Educational activities for child
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	78%	73%	70%	60%	63%	63%	61%
	One or both part-time	82%	71%	71%	70%	59%	61%	54%
	One partner or lone parent at home	82%	80%	76%	71%	66%	65%	62%
Out of home activity in household	Both out of home	80%	71%	70%	64%	63%	62%	56%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	79%	77%	72%	54%	61%	64%	71%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	85%	85%	85%	71%	64%	59%	72%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	80%	78%	74%	74%	66%	67%	58%
One or both attending school?	No	80%	75%	73%	67%	64%	63%	59%
	Yes	85%	78%	70%	58%	56%	66%	70%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	79%	73%	70%	63%	62%	62%	59%
	No	83%	81%	81%	74%	66%	66%	63%
Respondent's job type	Not employed	83%	81%	80%	73%	66%	65%	63%
	Full time (at all jobs)	77%	73%	70%	62%	63%	62%	62%
	Part time	83%	72%	69%	66%	60%	62%	51%
Respondent's job schedule	Not employed	83%	81%	80%	73%	66%	65%	63%
	Monday to Friday	82%	74%	72%	63%	64%	64%	60%
	Non-standard	75%	72%	66%	64%	59%	60%	58%

		Percent who say this characteristic is "very important"							
		Alternate is available if caregiver sick	Care even if child is sick	Convenience of location	Caregiver's education and training	Cost of the care	Care in your own home	Facility is licensed	Similar cultural background
All respondents		**60%**	**57%**	**55%**	**48%**	**46%**	**29%**	**23%**	**18%**
Gender of respondent	Male	50%	57%	43%	40%	33%	34%	18%	17%
	Female	62%	57%	58%	50%	49%	28%	25%	19%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	59%	55%	53%	58%	62%	18%	37%	8%
	25 to 34	59%	57%	52%	49%	48%	26%	23%	18%
	35 or older	61%	57%	58%	45%	41%	34%	21%	21%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	63%	62%	55%	54%	51%	34%	26%	20%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	59%	55%	55%	44%	49%	26%	23%	19%
	University degree	54%	49%	55%	42%	31%	25%	19%	15%
Aboriginal identity	Non-Aboriginal	59%	54%	54%	46%	44%	26%	20%	16%
	Aboriginal	66%	71%	61%	61%	58%	47%	43%	30%
Region/community size	Saskatoon	57%	53%	61%	50%	47%	29%	23%	16%
	Regina	60%	51%	56%	50%	44%	26%	25%	17%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	62%	58%	48%	48%	44%	29%	21%	17%
	Rural	60%	65%	59%	44%	51%	33%	25%	23%
Household income	Under $30,000	66%	64%	59%	55%	61%	34%	38%	20%
	$30,000 to $49,999	59%	57%	57%	47%	52%	29%	16%	20%
	$50,000 plus	54%	52%	50%	40%	28%	26%	14%	17%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	65%	63%	60%	54%	60%	36%	36%	21%
	$8,000 to $15,000	60%	53%	53%	45%	44%	26%	13%	18%
	$15,000 or more	53%	55%	51%	41%	30%	25%	19%	17%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	55%	52%	53%	48%	44%	25%	20%	17%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	61%	58%	54%	44%	39%	33%	19%	20%
	Single parents	69%	64%	61%	53%	60%	33%	36%	19%
	Other	66%	67%	62%	55%	56%	25%	37%	16%
Age of youngest child	Under 2	58%	52%	52%	49%	48%	27%	25%	17%
	2 to 5	57%	55%	56%	50%	48%	27%	24%	17%
	6 or older	63%	61%	56%	46%	43%	33%	22%	21%

		Percent who say this characteristic is "very important"							
		Alternate is available if caregiver sick	Care even if child is sick	Convenience of location	Caregiver's education and training	Cost of the care	Care in your own home	Facility is licensed	Similar cultural background
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	59%	59%	56%	46%	44%	26%	18%	18%
	One or both part-time	57%	53%	56%	42%	38%	29%	18%	16%
	One partner or lone parent at home	62%	56%	54%	52%	52%	32%	32%	19%
Out of home activity in household	Both out of home	56%	57%	55%	43%	38%	28%	15%	18%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	67%	64%	60%	54%	59%	28%	32%	17%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	74%	61%	61%	55%	64%	42%	46%	25%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	57%	52%	50%	50%	46%	28%	25%	18%
One or both attending school?	No	60%	58%	55%	48%	44%	29%	22%	19%
	Yes	57%	51%	53%	51%	58%	29%	37%	11%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	59%	59%	55%	46%	43%	30%	19%	18%
	No	62%	52%	54%	53%	54%	28%	33%	19%
Respondent's job type	Not employed	62%	51%	54%	53%	53%	28%	33%	19%
	Full time (at all jobs)	59%	59%	55%	47%	43%	30%	19%	18%
	Part time	60%	58%	58%	43%	43%	28%	21%	18%
Respondent's job schedule	Not employed	62%	51%	54%	53%	53%	28%	33%	19%
	Monday to Friday	58%	58%	55%	47%	41%	29%	20%	18%
	Non-standard	60%	62%	57%	44%	46%	31%	18%	19%

Appendix F
Opinion Questions by Demographic and Labour Market Characteristics

		Percent who Agree Strongly				
		Governments should make and enforce regulations	Governments should ensure child care available throughout	Governments should help low income parents	Main goal is to enable parents to go to work/school	Subsidy can be used for relatives
All respondents		**71%**	**68%**	**63%**	**57%**	**52%**
Gender of respondent	Male	67%	57%	54%	49%	44%
	Female	72%	70%	66%	59%	54%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	79%	83%	79%	67%	51%
	25 to 34	72%	68%	64%	59%	54%
	35 or older	68%	64%	59%	53%	50%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	72%	71%	67%	58%	53%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	68%	68%	64%	59%	53%
	University degree	73%	62%	57%	50%	48%
Aboriginal identity	Non-Aboriginal	71%	66%	61%	55%	51%
	Aboriginal	67%	76%	80%	67%	57%
Region/community size	Saskatoon	75%	67%	63%	54%	48%
	Regina	77%	68%	67%	58%	48%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	69%	69%	63%	59%	54%
	Rural	64%	67%	62%	56%	56%
Household income	Under $30,000	72%	75%	77%	65%	58%
	$30,000 to $49,999	68%	71%	69%	54%	53%
	$50,000 plus	72%	59%	49%	54%	47%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	69%	74%	75%	63%	60%
	$8,000 to $15,000	69%	64%	60%	55%	52%
	$15,000 or more	75%	64%	56%	54%	42%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	70%	69%	59%	55%	50%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	70%	61%	60%	52%	54%
	Single parents	73%	77%	79%	69%	53%
	Other	70%	74%	71%	58%	54%
Age of youngest child	Under 2	72%	73%	61%	54%	54%
	2 to 5	69%	70%	65%	61%	50%
	6 or older	71%	64%	64%	55%	53%

		Percent who Agree Strongly				
		Governments should make and enforce regulations	Governments should ensure child care available throughout	Governments should help low income parents	Main goal is to enable parents to go to work/school	Subsidy can be used for relatives
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	70%	66%	62%	59%	48%
	One or both part-time	75%	72%	64%	56%	53%
	One partner or lone parent at home	70%	68%	65%	55%	55%
Out of home activity in household	Both out of home	71%	66%	59%	55%	49%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	72%	75%	76%	70%	50%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	72%	75%	81%	60%	61%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	70%	64%	58%	51%	54%
One or both attending school?	No	70%	67%	62%	56%	52%
	Yes	72%	77%	75%	65%	49%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	70%	67%	63%	58%	50%
	No	72%	70%	65%	54%	56%
Respondent's job type	Not employed	73%	70%	65%	53%	56%
	Full time (at all jobs)	69%	65%	62%	59%	48%
	Part time	71%	73%	66%	57%	55%
Respondent's job schedule	Not employed	73%	70%	65%	53%	56%
	Monday to Friday	68%	66%	62%	58%	50%
	Non-standard	72%	69%	64%	59%	50%

		Percent who Agree Strongly					
		Main goal of child care is developmental	Children better off at home regardless	Governments should help middle income parents	Lack of options make finding arrangements difficult	Extending kindergarten to four-year olds meets child care needs	Parents should always be responsible for paying
All respondents		**49%**	**45%**	**44%**	**37%**	**17%**	**15%**
Gender of respondent	Male	50%	48%	40%	25%	18%	17%
	Female	49%	45%	45%	39%	16%	14%
Age of respondent	19 to 24	67%	30%	56%	33%	27%	13%
	25 to 34	52%	46%	48%	39%	15%	15%
	35 or older	44%	48%	39%	35%	15%	15%
Completed education	Grade 12 or less	57%	46%	48%	37%	21%	16%
	Post-secondary certificate/diploma	46%	46%	47%	37%	16%	16%
	University degree	39%	41%	33%	34%	8%	9%
Aboriginal identity	Non-Aboriginal	45%	46%	41%	35%	14%	14%
	Aboriginal	72%	43%	62%	43%	30%	18%
Region/community size	Saskatoon	48%	45%	40%	29%	13%	11%
	Regina	51%	42%	47%	36%	22%	10%
	Urban (pop 1,000 plus)	51%	43%	49%	40%	16%	20%
	Rural	47%	52%	40%	39%	17%	17%
Household income	Under $30,000	62%	50%	52%	43%	24%	16%
	$30,000 to $49,999	48%	44%	52%	39%	16%	10%
	$50,000 plus	40%	44%	35%	32%	10%	18%
Income per person	Less than $8,000	57%	51%	52%	42%	23%	16%
	$8,000 to $15,000	46%	45%	45%	37%	13%	15%
	$15,000 or more	45%	40%	36%	33%	12%	15%
Family type	Two-parent with children under 6	50%	50%	46%	37%	15%	13%
	Two-parent with children 6+ only	40%	43%	35%	32%	15%	17%
	Single parents	59%	43%	57%	45%	23%	16%
	Other	68%	32%	46%	37%	21%	13%
Age of youngest child	Under 2	51%	52%	48%	38%	17%	16%
	2 to 5	55%	44%	48%	38%	18%	12%
	6 or older	44%	43%	39%	34%	15%	16%

		Percent who Agree Strongly					
		Main goal of child care is developmental	Children better off at home regardless	Governments should help middle income parents	Lack of options make finding arrangements difficult	Extending kindergarten to four-year olds meets child care needs	Parents should always be responsible for paying
Household labour force activity	Both partners FT or working lone parent	51%	38%	44%	38%	15%	13%
	One or both part-time	39%	43%	41%	35%	12%	11%
	One partner or lone parent at home	52%	55%	46%	36%	20%	19%
Out of home activity in household	Both out of home	45%	39%	41%	36%	14%	12%
	No spouse, respondent out of home	59%	37%	50%	39%	19%	14%
	Both at home (or lone parent at home)	63%	55%	63%	51%	35%	21%
	Either respondent or spouse at home	46%	58%	39%	31%	14%	18%
One or both attending school?	No	48%	47%	44%	37%	16%	15%
	Yes	61%	32%	46%	36%	20%	12%
Out of home activity last week	Yes, work or school	48%	41%	44%	35%	15%	13%
	No	51%	57%	46%	39%	20%	20%
Respondent's job type	Not employed	51%	55%	46%	39%	19%	20%
	Full time (at all jobs)	52%	39%	44%	35%	17%	13%
	Part time	40%	47%	43%	36%	12%	13%
Respondent's job schedule	Not employed	51%	55%	46%	39%	19%	20%
	Monday to Friday	51%	40%	46%	32%	14%	12%
	Non-standard	46%	43%	40%	40%	18%	14%